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Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Fifty-first session
Geneva, 3-7 July 2017
Item 2 (f) of the provisional agenda
Explosives and related matters:
application of security provisions to explosives N.O.S

Application of security provisions to explosives

Transmitted by the expert from the United Kingdom*

Introduction

- 1. At the forty-fifth session the expert from Italy raised an issue with the classification of articles under UN No. 0349, Articles, Explosive, N.O.S, (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2014/22). In the discussions of the Working Group on Explosives, it was recognised that this was a wider issue than just one entry; in essence, all explosives, as a consequence of being repackaged and reclassified, could cease to be captured as high consequence dangerous goods (HCDG) and therefore would not attract the security provisions of Chapter 1.4 of the Model Regulations.
- 2. At the forty-eighth session the expert from the United Kingdom proposed changes aimed at ensuring explosives which should attract the additional security requirements of Chapter 1.4 were being effectively identified (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2015/47 as amended by informal document INF.17 (48th session)). In addition to N.O.S entries, the proposal highlighted that the current HCDG list includes insensitive explosive substances (Hazard Division 1.5) but omits insensitive explosive articles (Hazard Division 1.6). There was wide support for the proposal that Articles, Explosive, Extremely Insensitive, 0486 (1.6N) should be added to the High Consequence Dangerous Goods list, recognising that, whilst candidates for inclusion in Hazard Division 1.6 may be more difficult to initiate, their potential for misuse in a terrorist event is unaffected.

^{*} In accordance with the programme of work of the Sub-Committee for 2017–2018 approved by the Committee at its eighth session (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/100, paragraph 98 and ST/SG/AC.10/44, paragraph 14).

3. The proposal to include insensitive explosive articles in the indicative list was repeated in proposals made by the United Kingdom expert to the fiftieth session (informal document INF.44 (50th session)). In its report to the Sub-Committee, the Working Group on Explosives recommended that Hazard Division 1.6 should be added to the indicative list in Table 1.4.1 of the Model Regulations (informal document INF.59 (50th session)). In light of the late submission of the proposal, the Sub-Committee asked that the recommendation be resubmitted as an official proposal (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/100, paras. 19-20).

Proposal

- 4. The recommendation of the Working Group on Explosives was based on the consensus amongst members that the potential consequences from an incident involving insensitive explosives articles were identical to those presented by their more "sensitive" counterparts. It is therefore proposed that Hazard Division 1.6 be included in the indicative list of High Consequence Dangerous Goods.
- 5. Currently there is only one UN number assigned to this Hazard Division, UN No. 0486, Articles, Explosive, Extremely Insensitive, 1.6N. The proposal does not confine itself to this entry alone, in order to include any new entries to this division in the future.
- 6. The change proposed is to amend Table 1.4.1 in the Model Regulations to read: (changes in italics and underlined):

Class1, Division 1.1	explosives
Class1, Division 1.2	explosives
Class1, Division 1.3	compatibility group C explosives
Class1, Division 1.4	UN Nos. 0104, 0237, 0255, 0267, 0289, 0361, 0365, 0366, 0440, 0441, 0455, 0456 and 0500.
Class1, Division 1.5	explosives
Class1, Division 1.6	<u>explosives</u>