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 22 May 2017

Fifty-first session
Geneva, 3 July-7 July 2017
Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda
Explosives and related matters :
Review of Tests in parts I, II and III of the Manual of Tests and Criteria

Manual of Tests and Criteria

Proposal to amend section 10.3.3.4

Transmitted by the expert from Sweden

Introduction

1. During the fiftieth session, the Explosive Working Group amended section 10.3.3 of the Manual of Tests and Criteria (ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev. 6), based upon the proposals from the expert from Sweden and AEISG (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2016/60). The goal of the work was to correct the text and make it less prone to misinterpretation. The changes proposed by the working group, including rearranging the order of the paragraphs, were adopted by the Sub-Committee (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/100).

2. Although the Working Group made significant edits within Sections 10.3.3.2 and 10.3.3.3, many in the group felt that there was not enough time to review the additional Section 10.3.3.4 edits proposed during the session, so it was retained as previously found (as Section 10.3.3.3) in the Manual.

Necessity of revision

3. Section 10.3.3.4 contains additional explanations and advices about how classification tests may be carried out more rationally and efficiently, and therefore supports the preceding Sections. In keeping with the goal of (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2016/60), we propose further changes to Section 10.3.3.4 to prevent misinterpretation while keeping the text correct and concise.

Proposal 1

4. Amend Section 10.3.3.4 to read as follows (new text underlined, deleted text ~~struck out~~):

The proposed section 10.3.3.4

5. The proposed amendments to the text are shown below:

"10.3.3.4 ~~Although t~~Test series 1 indicates whether a substance ~~, not designed to have an explosive effect,~~ has ~~in fact potentially~~ explosive properties~~,~~. However, for a new material not designed to have an explosive effect, ~~again~~ it is more appropriate to start the testing procedure with test series 3. Test series 3 ~~These tests~~ involves relatively small sample sizes, which reduces the risk to test personnel. ~~If test series 3 indicates that a substance is too sensitive for transport in the form in which it is tested, then the procedures for reducing its sensitiveness to external stimuli, outlined in 10.3.3.2, should be applied.~~ If ~~test series 3 indicates that~~ the substance passes test series 3~~is not too sensitive for transport~~, as a practical matter the next step is the application of test series 2, which determines whether the substance is too insensitive for inclusion in Class 1. There is no real need to perform test series 1 at this point. ~~in the acceptance procedure, since test series 2 answers the pertinent question regarding the degree of insensitiveness of the substance. Test series 1 is concerned with the resolution of questions relating to the explosive nature of the substance. The procedure for assignment to a division of Class 1 should be applied to~~ Ssubstances which fail test series 2 but pass test series 3 ~~i.e. they are not too insensitive for acceptance into Class 1 nor are they thermally unstable or too dangerous to transport in the form in which they are tested~~ may be subjected to the procedure for assignment to the appropriate division of Class 1. It is important to note, however, that a substance which fails test series 2 may still~~, if properly packaged, leave~~ be excluded from Class 1, provided ~~that~~ the substance~~product~~ is not designed to have an explosive effect, nor ~~and does not~~ exhibits any explosive hazard in test series 6 of the assignment procedure as packaged."

6. The final text after the proposed amendments is shown below:

"10.3.3.4 Test series 1 indicates whether a substance has explosive properties. However, for a new material not designed to have an explosive effect, it is more appropriate to start the testing procedure with test series 3. Test series 3 involves relatively small sample sizes, which reduces the risk to test personnel. If the substance passes test series 3, as a practical matter the next step is the application of test series 2, which determines whether the substance is too insensitive for inclusion in Class 1. There is no real need to perform test series 1 at this point. Substances which fail test series 2 but pass test series 3 may be subjected to the procedure for assignment to the appropriate division of Class 1. It is important to note, however, that a substance which fails test series 2 may still be excluded from Class 1, provided the substance is not designed to have an explosive effect, nor exhibits any explosive hazard in test series 6 of the assignment procedure as packaged."