
**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**
(Nineteenth session, 2-6 July 2001
agenda item 12)

Internet Publication of UN Model Regulations

Transmitted by the Expert from Australia

Australia, along with other member countries of the UN Committee of Experts, is finding it increasingly difficult to resource the work of contributing to the maintenance and development of the UN Model Regulations as well as translating these agreed requirements into domestic land transport legislation. The expense of sending experts to Geneva is great for this country, combined with the inefficiency of translating the Model Regulations into domestic legislation.

In Australia, decisions made at the UN Committee of Experts are still subject to detailed debate and cost/benefit analysis and scrutiny by our government regulatory processes. It is not guaranteed that all decisions made by UNCETDG, even if Australia has voted for the decision, will be implemented into Australian land transport legislation.

This problem is not so acute for regulators of sea and air transport, as the IMDG Code and ICAO Technical Instructions are adopted without alteration in domestic legislation. [However, it does seem very inefficient to have separate modal documents derived from the UN Model Regulations.]

It would be of great assistance to Australia (and New Zealand) if these could be made available on the Internet for free so that we could directly reference it in our land transport dangerous goods legislation. At present, we are prevented from referencing the UN Model Regulations because our government legislative processes require documents referenced in legislation to be readily available to those who must comply with them. This requirement is not met by sale of the hard copy in Australia.

Also, in developing our domestic legislation, availability of electronic extracts of the UN Model Regulations (such as the dangerous goods list) would make it a lot less time-consuming to incorporate material. The Internet version therefore would need also to be available to Governments as soon as possible after agreement each biennium – in *editable form*. The next version of our Australian dangerous goods land transport legislation will be totally published on the Internet and not available in hard copy form. This means that linkages with an Internet version of the UN Model Regulations could easily be made.

Australia requests that the Secretariat investigate as soon as possible whether such a service could be performed for member governments and for industry and report back to the December Sub-

committee meeting.