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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**
(Twenty-first session, 1-10 July 2002,
agenda item 6)

PACKAGINGS (INCLUDING IBCs AND LARGE PACKAGINGS)

New packaging requirements

Transmitted by the expert from Spain

According to the requirements of 4.1.1.1 "dangerous goods shall be packed in good quality packagings, including IBC'S and large packagings, which shall be strong enough to withstand the shocks and loading normally encountered during transport, including trans-shipment between transport units and warehouses as well as any removal from a pallet or overpack for subsequent manual or mechanical handling".

The reality is that most of the dangerous goods are transported in packagings that are packed inside a large freight container. In these cases, under normal conditions of transport they cannot break, be punctured or leak their contents because they are protected by the metallic panel of the large freight container. But when the packagings are transported in pallets, or in large containers in form of crates, the impacts between large containers, due to inadvertent movements of the crane, can puncture the packagings and produce a leakage in the case of packagings transporting liquids.

Some problems of this kind have been encountered in Spanish harbours. In particular, complete information has been obtained about an accident involving a steel drum of 200 l capacity, in Alicante (Spain). This fact is significant because steel drums of this capacity normally have 1 mm thickness, and in spite of that, the drum was perforated producing a leakage.

For all the reasons mentioned, it is considered necessary to have a "puncture test" as a new requirement for, at least, packagings transported in pallets or large containers in form of crates without an outer packaging to protect them.

With this aim, the Sub-Committee has been asked to study the need for a new test for packagings to be included in chapter 6.1 under paragraph 6.1.5 "Test requirements for packagings".

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