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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 8 (c))

**LISTING AND CLASSIFICATION**

**Miscellaneous amendment proposals (Parts 2 and 3)**

**Amendment to Special Provision 179**

**Transmitted by the expert from the United States of America**

**Background**

1. It is anticipated that the UN Committee of Experts will adopt criteria for environmentally hazardous substances consistent with the criteria developed for the GHS during the 2001-2002 biennium and that these criteria will be included in the Model Regulations with subsequent adoption in international and national regulations. Adoption of these criteria will enhance harmonization and result in more consistently applied requirements for environmentally hazardous substances. The expert from the United States of America supports adoption of the new environmentally hazardous substances criteria. However, we believe that until the criteria is universally adopted in international and national regulations worldwide, provisions for addressing differences in classification of environmentally hazardous substances need to be included in the Model Regulations to prevent shipments of these substances from experiencing unnecessary delays in transport that result from regulatory differences.

2. Special provision (SP) 179 currently indicates that the environmentally hazardous substance entry may be used for wastes not otherwise subject to the Regulations but which are covered under the Basel Convention. To preclude unnecessary shipment frustrations SP 179 should be amended to clarify that substances that are classified as environmentally hazardous by a competent authority may be transported under the description of environmentally hazardous substances (i.e., UN 3077 or UN 3082) when it does not meet the criteria for any other class or division. It would not be mandatory that the substances be transported as such, but would allow substances that are regulated by a particular competent authority to be transported as environmentally hazardous and to be accepted by other competent authorities.

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**Proposal**

1. Amend special provision 179 by adding the bolded sentence below so that it reads as follows:

"This designation shall be used for substances and mixtures which are dangerous to the aquatic environment or which are marine pollutants that do not meet the classification criteria of any other class or another substance within Class 9. This designation may also be used for wastes which are covered under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal **and to substances designated to be environmentally hazardous substances by the competent authority of the country of origin, transit or destination which do not meet the criteria for an environmentally hazardous substance according to these Regulations.**"

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