



Secretariat

Distr.
GENERAL

ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2002/34
11 April 2002

ORIGINAL : ENGLISH

**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 items 7 and 10)

TRANSPORT OF INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES

**Transport of Division 6.2, Infectious substances
and of Class 9 – Miscellaneous dangerous substances and articles**

**Genetically modified Micro-organisms (GMMOs) and
Genetically modified Organisms (GMOs)**

Transmitted by the expert from the United States of America

1. At the 20th session of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, the expert from the United States of America suggested that he would propose amendments to the UN Model Regulations for genetically modified micro-organisms (GMMOs) and genetically modified organisms (GMOs).
2. This paper proposes to amend the requirements for GMMOs and GMOs to make them more consistent with regulations of other sectors, to accommodate transport regulatory needs and to simplify and clarify the current requirements.
3. The following proposals are submitted for consideration and adoption by the Sub-Committee.

Proposal 1

1. Currently in the Model Regulations the definition and classification requirements for GMMOs and GMOs are included in Chapter 2.6 as a subset of the infectious substances classification requirements. We believe this inaccurately implies that GMMOs and GMOs are normally infectious. While it is true that some GMMOs and GMOs may be included in Division 6.2 infectious substances if they meet the criteria for such inclusion, most GMMOs and GMOs are not infectious substances.
2. The Model Regulations assign GMMOs that have not been authorized for use by the appropriate national authorities to be transported as Class 9 dangerous goods.
3. The expert from the United States of America believes that the requirements for GMMOs and GMOs should more appropriately be included in Chapter 2.9.
4. On this basis, it is proposed that:
 - (a) the introductory note, Note 1, at the beginning of Chapter 2.6 be deleted;
 - (b) paragraph 2.6.3.1.4 be moved to Chapter 2.9; and
 - (c) Chapter 2.9 be amended as follows:

2.9.1 Definitions

2.9.1.1 *Class 9 substances and articles (miscellaneous dangerous substances and articles)* are substances and articles which, during transport present a danger not covered by other classes.

2.9.1.2 *Genetically modified micro-organisms (GMMOs) and genetically modified organisms (GMOs)* are micro-organisms and organisms in which genetic material has been purposely altered through genetic engineering in a way that does not occur naturally.

2.9.2 Assignment to Class 9

2.9.2.1 Class 9 includes substances that are transported or offered for transport at temperatures greater than or equal to 100°C in a liquid state or at temperatures greater than or equal to 240°C.

2.9.3 Genetically modified micro-organisms (GMMOs) and Genetically modified organisms (GMOs)

2.9.3.1 GMMOs that are known or suspected to be dangerous to humans, animals or the environment, shall be classified in Class 9 and assigned to UN3245. GMOs that are known or suspected to be dangerous to humans, animals or the environment shall be transported in accordance with conditions specified by the competent authorities. GMOs that are food or feed are not subject to these Model Regulations.

2.9.3.2 When authorized for use by the competent authorities of the Governments of the countries of origin and destination, GMMOs or GMOs are not subject to these Model Regulations.

2.9.3.3 GMMOs and GMOs that meet the definition of an infectious substance and the criteria for inclusion in Division 6.2 in accordance with Chapter 2.6, shall be classified in Division 6.2 and assigned to UN2814, UN2900 or UN3373, as appropriate.

Proposal 2

Amend special provision 219 to read:

"219 Genetically modified micro-organisms and genetically modified organisms that meet the definition of an infectious substance and the criteria for inclusion in Division 6.2 in accordance with Chapter 2.6 shall be transported as UN2814, UN2900 or UN3373, as appropriate."

Proposal 3

Amend packing instruction P904 as follows:

"

P904	PACKING INSTRUCTION	P904
	<p>This packing instruction applies to UN3245. The following packagings are authorized provided the general provisions of 4.1.1 and 4.1.3 are met:</p> <p>(1) Combination packagings according to P001 or P002 conforming to the packing group III performance level.</p> <p>(2) Outer packagings, which need not conform to the packaging test requirements of Part 6, but conforming to the following:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(a) an inner packaging comprising</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(i) a watertight primary receptacle(s);</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(ii) a watertight secondary packaging which is leakproof;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(iii) absorbent material placed between the primary receptacle(s) and the secondary packaging. The absorbent material shall be in a quantity sufficient to absorb the entire contents of the primary receptacle(s) so that any release of the liquid substance will not compromise the integrity of the cushioning material or of the outer packaging;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(iv) if multiple fragile primary receptacles are placed in a single secondary packaging they shall be individually wrapped or separated to prevent contact between them.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(b) an outer packaging shall be strong enough for its capacity, mass and intended use and the smallest external dimension shall be at least 100 mm.</p> <p>3. <u>Dry Ice and Liquid Nitrogen</u></p> <p>When UN1845, Carbon Dioxide, Solid, (dry ice) is used as a refrigerant, the packaging shall be designed and constructed to permit the release of the gaseous carbon dioxide to prevent the build up of pressure that could rupture the packaging.</p> <p>Substances consigned in liquid nitrogen or dry ice shall be packed in primary receptacles that are capable of withstanding very low temperatures. The secondary packaging shall also be capable of withstanding very low temperatures and, in most cases, will need to be fitted over the primary receptacle individually.</p>	

"