



Secretariat

Distr.  
GENERAL

ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2002/66  
09 September 2002

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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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-second session,  
Geneva, 2-6 December 2002  
agenda item 4(a))

**NEW PROPOSALS**

**Outstanding issues**

**Transport of infectious substances affecting animals (UN 2900) in bulk**

**Transmitted by the expert from the United Kingdom**

1. The expert from the United Kingdom refers to the discussions on the transport of infectious substances in bulk (UN 2900 and UN 3291) that took place during the twenty-first session of the Sub-Committee. Two papers were considered during the discussion, ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2002/30, transmitted by the expert from the United Kingdom together with UN/SCETDG/21/INF 31 transmitted by the expert from the Netherlands. At the end of the discussion it was agreed that the expert from the United Kingdom should produce a revised paper. On reflection the expert from the United Kingdom feels it would be simpler if two separate papers were produced on these items particularly as the problems associated with them may be different. This paper concerns infectious substances affecting animals, UN 2900, and takes account of comments made during the discussions at the 21<sup>st</sup> session. UN 3291, CLINICAL WASTE, UNSPECIFIED, NOS. is dealt with in a separate paper.

**Background**

2. The expert from the United Kingdom draws attention of the Sub-Committee to the unfortunate outbreaks of foot and mouth and other diseases affecting livestock that have occurred not only in the United Kingdom but in other parts of the world. As noted in paragraph 2 of our previous paper, ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2002/30, the packing requirements for UN 2900 are covered in Chapter 6.3 of the Model Regulations but currently there are no regulations governing transport in bulk. Recent experience in the United Kingdom suggests that while the existing Model Regulations may be sufficient for transporting most substances assigned to UN 2900 in normal everyday circumstances, they are insufficient when, for example, large quantities of animal carcasses need to be transported in exceptional circumstances in a short space of time.

3. The prime concern in the transport of any infectious substance is the risk of the spread of infection. That could occur not only as a result of a transport incident but also during normal conditions of transport where circumstances such as the substance not being sufficiently enclosed could allow the spread of infection to either humans or animals.
4. In the case of UN 2900, however, the expert from the United Kingdom believes that the proposals now adopted by the July 2002 Sub-Committee meeting for the transport of solid substances in bulk in containers, see ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/42 Add 3, would offer sufficient general protection against any risks associated with such transport. Recent experience suggests that these substances could therefore be safely transported in bulk containers.
5. With UN 2900 there may however be an additional hazard from residual liquids emanating from the material carried. It would be necessary therefore to ensure that bulk containers are leakproof either by design or by the fitting of a suitable liner. Further additional precautions to minimise leakage of substances may also be necessary, as specified below. Equally, disinfection to prevent possible spread of disease is essential.
6. In putting forward proposals, the expert from the United Kingdom realises that it is unlikely that there would be significant international transport of this substance. Nevertheless the UN Model Regulations are also used as a basis for national regulations. The expert from the United Kingdom believes that having national regulations reflecting the UN Model Regulations in place for the transport of animal carcasses should help national governments to deal quickly with any crisis that occurs.
7. The expert from the United Kingdom proposes the following;

### **Proposal**

Amend the title of Section 4.3.2 to include Division 6.2

Add a new paragraph 4.3.2.4 for UN 2900

#### 4.3.2.4 Bulk Goods of Division 6.2 (UN 2900)

- (a) For UN 2900, sheeted bulk containers [BK1] shall be permitted provided that vehicles are not filled to maximum capacity to avoid substances coming into contact with the sheeting. Closed bulk containers [BK2] shall also be permitted.
- (b) Closed and Sheeted bulk containers, and their openings, shall be leak-proof by design or by the fitting of a suitable liner.
- (c) Goods of UN 2900 shall be thoroughly treated with disinfectant before loading prior to transport.
- (d) Goods of UN 2900 in a sheeted bulk container shall be covered by an additional top liner weighted down by absorbent material treated with disinfectant.
- (e) Closed or sheeted bulk containers used for the transport of UN 2900 shall not be re-used until after they have been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. (*Note: This provision may be more appropriately placed as a new 7.1.6.2.3*)

Renumber the subsequent paragraphs in 4.3.2 accordingly.

( NOTE: If proposals made by the expert of the United Kingdom in respect of UN 3291 ( ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2002/67 ) are also adopted, this text should be numbered paragraph 4.3.2.4.2 and the heading of 4.3.2.4 suitably amended.)

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