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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, 2- 6 December 2002,
agenda item (6))

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 2003-2004

Publication of guiding principles of the UN Model Regulations

Transmitted by the expert from the United Kingdom

Background

1. During the December 2000 meeting of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, the expert from the United Kingdom presented Information Paper 49 which recommended that the Secretariat put together a set of guiding principles which could assist experts when considering future amendments to the Model Regulations. To remind the Sub-Committee of its contents it is reproduced as Annex 1 to this paper.
2. During the debate the expert of the United Kingdom agreed to help provide background information to the secretariat to enable it to start producing a first draft of the guiding principles for the Sub- Committee. The expert from the United Kingdom has provided such information to enable the secretariat to commence work.

3. While the expert from the United Kingdom recognises the difficulties that the secretariat continues to experience with staffing and workload, nevertheless he believes it important that this topic must not be lost sight of, particularly as most experts at the last biennium expressed agreement on the need to produce a set of guiding principles.
4. The expert from the United Kingdom therefore now requests that this subject be included on the work programme for the next biennium with the aim of the secretariat publishing the guidelines as supplement to the Report of the December 2004 session.

Annex 1

UN/CETDG/21/INF.49

**COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE
TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS
(Twenty-first session, 4-13 December 2000
agenda item 5)**

**PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE 2001/2002 BIENNIUM AND RELATED
PROPOSALS**

Publication of guiding principles of the UN Model Regulations

Transmitted by the expert from the United Kingdom

Introduction

1. In recent biennia, the Sub-Committee and Committee of Experts have adopted certain guiding principles when reviewing various parts of the Model Regulations. This has been done to ensure that consistent decisions have been made, and that these have been applied equitably to all regulated substances and articles.
2. In particular, a rationalised approach was adopted for the development and assignment of portable tank instructions; guiding principles were adopted for the development of Packing Instructions; a rationale for the setting of limited quantity thresholds was agreed.
3. No doubt this approach has been applied almost from the inception of the Model Regulations for a number of other provisions. Unfortunately, as time goes by these guiding principles can be forgotten. As proposals are made for minor changes to the regulations, it is impossible to judge whether such changes fit the general approach or not. On occasions, text adopted many years ago is reviewed with current experts having no idea what the rationale for its existence was.
4. The guiding principles used for a particular item of work are generally recorded in the Report of the meeting session at which they are agreed. But again, the existence of these records can be forgotten, particularly as experts struggle to minimise the quantity of paper that they must carry to meetings.

5. The expert from the United Kingdom suggests that it would be helpful to all current and future experts attending the Transport of Dangerous Goods Sub-Committee to have available in one regularly updated document, a collection of adopted guiding principles. This would act as a source of information when considering future amendments to the Regulations. It is anticipated that the Secretariat could identify and draw together this information without undue resource implications and, since the document is unlikely to be unduly large, without additional publication costs.
6. In future, such a document might also be used to include some current Notes to the Model Regulations. In many cases such Notes, not forming part of the regulatory text, are simply to inform users. Such guidance might be better suited for inclusion in what might become a Guidance Note to the Model Regulations for the benefit of drafters of the Regulations and users alike.

Proposal

7. The expert from the United Kingdom proposes that:
 - a) the Secretariat be requested to identify all guiding principles, rationalised approaches and common approaches used in developing the Model Regulations and recorded in all session reports by April 2002;
 - b) that these be set out, in Part order, in the form of a supplement to the report of the July 2002 Sub-Committee session for review by that session;
 - c) that this document be adopted and distributed as a supplement to the Report of the December 2002 session;
 - d) that the document be updated and re-issued biennially thereafter.
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