

**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 item12)**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Comments on ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2002/28 and -/Add.1 (UIC)**

Harmonization of the information codes for the identification of hazards  
and emergency measures for the transport of dangerous goods

**Transmitted by the International Technical Committee for the prevention and Extinction of Fire (CTIF)**

The CTIF supports the proposal of UIC, “that the (Sub-)Committee should consider the possibility of harmonizing all codes for hazard information and emergency response into a system, that takes the best features of the existing systems”.

According to the working definition of the GHS working group a coded information refers to a series of letters and/or digits. Different type of information can be extracted from the codes by using a decoding mechanism (decode-scale, list). UN number, the Emergency Action Code and the Hazard Identification Number are examples of coded information.

Neither the numerical order of the guides nor the guide numbers from other sources of information mentioned in the UIC proposal, e.g. North American Response Guide Book, are of any significance and must therefore be considered in a different way.

The majority of the CTIF member countries are in favour of a world wide coded system of information for appropriate action upon arrival on the scene of an incident with dangerous goods. This coded system would provide the same level of information like the pictograms (labels/placards) which are to be harmonised within the GHS.

Because there are obviously different views worldwide about the benefit or shortcomings of such coded systems CTIF suggests that a working group should deal with that issues comprising representatives from different Departments of Transportation as well as NGO's like UIC, CEFIC, IRU, CTIF and others.

This working group could also discuss the need and possibilities to improve the now existing pictograms. CTIF has some suggestions which would supplement the already existing system.

One can understand that countries like the USA, which widely distribute Response Guide Books to the interested parties do not need a coded information system. But the UN has also to care for the countries which have nothing - neither a guide book, nor a coded system. Obviously this is the situation in the developing countries which seldom show up in dangerous goods committees.

CTIF thinks that this issue is too important to be decided on a written proposal by majority and therefore would appreciate if a working group could be installed.

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