

UN/SECTDG/23/INF.39

HAZARDS TO THE AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT

Note by the Secretariat

During the discussion of document ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2003/17 concerning the classification of UN 2662 – Hydroquinone, it was mentioned that the safety data sheet should be amended to include data on hazards to the aquatic environment.

This seems logical indeed due to the introduction of criteria for substances which are hazardous to the aquatic environment in Chapter 2.9 of the Model Regulations.

However, the secretariat notes that during the same discussion, it was said that substances hazardous to the aquatic environment should be classified under UN No. 3979 or 3082 as appropriate in accordance with the criteria, and it appeared that the Sub-Committee was not inclined to introduce specific entries in Class 9 for such substances, even when carried in significant quantities.

Bearing in mind that the data sheet included in Figure 1 of the UN Recommendations is intended for the assignment of new UN numbers to most commonly carried substances or reclassification of existing substances to which a UN number has already been assigned, the secretariat is wondering whether there is a need for amending this data sheet if the data required for hazards to the aquatic environment are not used for classification of a substance pollutant to the aquatic environment under a specific UN entry, or for identification of this specific hazard for substances already classified under an entry under Classes 1-8.

The Sub-Committee may wish to consider this issue and provide guidance as deemed necessary.
