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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-fifth session, 5-14 July 2004
Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**MISCELLANEOUS PROPOSALS OF AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL REGULATIONS
ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS**

Documentation

Inclusion of a reference to UN packaging codes in paragraph 5.4.1.5.1

Transmitted by the Expert from the International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA)

Introduction

Paragraph 5.4.1.5.1 deals with the total quantity of dangerous goods to be entered on the dangerous goods transport document as well as the number and kind of packagings to be indicated on the document. The specific text in paragraph 5.4.1.5.1, which relates to the number and kind of packagings is: *“The number and kind (e.g. drum, box etc.) of packagings shall also be indicated.”*

The text allows a large number of possibilities and expressions and it is often difficult for the carrier to read out or interpret the actual text being entered by the shipper. In the light of increasing EDI communication between shippers and carriers and between carriers and ship owners and ports etc. the use of the UN Packaging Codes instead of various expressions would clearly lead to uniformity and removal of misunderstandings. Moreover, the use of the codes would also remove language problems and thus, facilitate safety.

The text in para. 5.4.1.5.1 does not explicitly prohibit the use of the UN packaging codes although FIATA feels that the text could be clearer in order to indicate that the codes can be used as an alternative to plain language.

Proposal

Add a reference to UN Packaging Codes in paragraph 5.4.1.5.1. The new paragraph would read:

"5.4.1.5.1 *Total quantity of dangerous goods*

Except for empty uncleaned packagings, the total quantity of dangerous goods covered by the description (by volume or mass as appropriate) of each item of dangerous goods bearing a different proper shipping name, UN number or packing group shall be included. For Class 1 dangerous goods, the quantity shall be the net explosive mass. For dangerous goods transported in salvage packagings, an estimate of the quantity of dangerous goods shall be given. The number and kind (e.g. drum, box, etc.) of packagings shall also be indicated. **The kind of packagings may instead be indicated by the UN packaging codes if applicable.** Abbreviations may be used to specify the unit of measurement for the total quantity."
