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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-sixth session, 29 November-3 December 2004
Item 3 (c) of the provisional agenda

**OUTSTANDING ISSUES OR PROPOSALS OF AMENDMENTS TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS
ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS**

Miscellaneous

New Special Provision for Alcohols, n.o.s.

Transmitted by the expert from the United States of America

Background

The use of alcohol fuels in automobiles is growing. In North America gasoline containing alcohol is manufactured and distributed in considerable amounts where approximately 30 percent of all gasoline in the United States of America will be blended with alcohol in 2004. This practice is also known to be growing in South America. The base mixture of alcohol and gasoline before it is blended is typically 95% alcohol and 5% gasoline, consistent with ASTM D4806 Standard Specification for Denatured Fuel Ethanol for Blending with Gasoline for Use as Automotive Spark Ignition Fuel. This mixture is then blended with gasoline for use as a fuel.

Recently the question of the most appropriate proper shipping name for the base mixture has raised questions, particularly in relation to the proper response procedures in response to an incident. By a strict reading of the regulations, gasoline and alcohol mixtures are best classified as "flammable liquid, n.o.s., UN 1993". However typical response procedures for UN 1993 do not take into account the fact that special alcohol resistant foams must be employed to extinguish fires involving flammable liquid mixtures containing high percentages of alcohol.

A currently acceptable name for mixtures of alcohols is "alcohols, n.o.s., UN 1987". It is proposed that a special provision be added to the "alcohols, n.o.s., UN 1987" entry to allow mixtures of alcohol containing up to 5% other petroleum products to be transported as UN 1987.

Proposal

Add a new special provision XXX to UN 1987 as follows:

XXX Alcohols containing up to 5% petroleum products may be transported under this entry.
