

## 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 6 of the provisional agenda

### LISTING, CLASSIFICATION AND PACKING

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

Transmitted by the expert from the United States

#### **Background**

Since the 19th century, alcohol fuels have been developed mainly for use by the automotive industry. In North America gasoline containing alcohol is manufactured and distributed in considerable amounts where approximately 30 percent of all gasoline in the United States will be blended with alcohol in 2004. 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; such mixtures typically contain 90% gasoline and 10% alcohol.

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". Because alcohols mixed with gasoline are more appropriately described as "flammable liquid, n.o.s., UN 1993", and the generic response procedures for UN 1993 are inadequate for such mixtures, 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 classified as UN 1987.

#### **Proposal**

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

XXX This entry includes alcohol mixtures containing up to 5% petroleum products.