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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
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Item 2 of the provisional agenda

TEXTS ADOPTED BY THE SUB-COMMITTEEAT ITS TWENTY-THIRD, TWENTY-FOURTH AND TWENTY-FIFTH SESSIONS AND RELATED PROPOSALS

Infectious substances

Transmitted by the Expert from the United States of America

The expert from the United States of America offers the following alternative text to the proposal by the experts from Canada, The Netherlands and South Africa in ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2004/99:

2.6.3.2.3.6 Specimens from apparently healthy source patients or animals transported for the purposes of diagnosis, other than for the presence of infectious substances, or for routine screening tests and for which there is minimal likelihood ~~no reason to believe or suspect~~ that an infectious substance is present ~~need not meet the requirements~~ of are not subject to these Regulations if the specimen is transported in a packaging that complies with the following conditions ~~are met~~:

(a) ~~(a) the primary receptacle(s) do not contain more than 1L;~~

~~(b) the outer packaging does not contain more than 4L;~~

~~(c)~~ the packaging includes:

-a leakproof primary receptacle(s);

-a leakproof secondary packaging;

-a firm outer packaging of adequate strength for its capacity, mass and intended use, and with at least one surface having a minimum dimension of 100 mm x 100 mm; and

-absorbent material in sufficient quantity to absorb the entire contents, placed between the primary receptacle(s) and the secondary packaging, so that during transport any release or leak of a liquid substance will not reach the outer packaging ~~and will not compromise the integrity of the cushioning material~~;;

[or alternatively:

the primary receptacle shall be packaged in a manner such that any leakage that may occur will not reach the outer packaging;]

(bd) if multiple fragile primary receptacles are placed in a single secondary packaging, they shall be individually wrapped or separated so as to prevent contact between them during handling and transport; and

(ce) the outer packaging is marked with the words "Diagnostic Specimen – Not Regulated for Transport".

Note 1: *As with determining whether or not a substance is included in Category A (see 2.6.3.2.2.1(b)), an element of professional judgement is required to determine if a substance is exempt under this section. That judgement should be based on the known medical history, symptoms and individual circumstances of the source human or animal and endemic local conditions. Examples of routine screening tests include, but are not limited to, the blood or urine tests to monitor cholesterol levels, blood glucose levels, hormone levels, prostate specific antibodies (PSA); those required to monitor organ function such as heart, liver or kidney function for people who have non-infectious diseases, therapeutic drug monitoring; those conducted for insurance or employment purposes and are intended to determine the presence of drugs or alcohol; pregnancy tests. Tests for diagnosis other than for the presence of pathogens include but are not limited to, biopsies to detect cancer and antibody titre testing.*

~~***Note 2:*** *Consignors must fill and close the package as prepared for transport to ensure that there is no leak during transport. The package must have enough absorbent material in it to absorb all liquid, including wet ice used as a coolant that may melt during transport. Any liquid, whether from the specimen or from melted wet ice, must not reach the outer packaging. If the consignor is a patient, then the healthcare facility dealing with the patient must ensure that the patient understands how to prepare and mark the package for transport.*~~
