

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

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Item 10 of the provisional agenda

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Reference to packaging standards in the UN Model Regulations

Transmitted by the International Standards Organization (ISO)

In recent years ISO/TC 122/SC 3/WG 8 together with CEN /TC 261/SC 5/WG 16 developed standards on the testing of dangerous goods packagings and IBC's, based on the UN Model regulations. Four standard projects in different stages of completion have been or are in the course of being completed:

- EN ISO 16104 Packaging – Transport packaging for dangerous goods — Test methods for packages
- EN ISO 16467 Packaging — Transport packaging for dangerous goods — Test methods for IBC's
- ISO/FDIS 16883 Packaging — Transport packages for dangerous goods — Test methods for large packagings (to be submitted to a formal vote)
- ISO (to be numbered) Packaging – Transport packages for dangerous goods - Test methods for packaging for infectious substances.

The main objective of these standards was to harmonize the application of the UN testing rules, give guidance to test houses and enhance its credibility. For user friendliness and completeness relevant text of the Model Regulations has been repeated in these standards with the disadvantage that overlap of text with regulations is created, forcing test houses to care about the relevance of both, standards and regulations based upon the Model Regulations.

Other standards prepared by this ISO/CEN working group are dealing with different issues and are not addressed here.

During the 24th Session of UN SCETDG a submission was rejected to take the first of these four standards into reference in a way that would have replaced larger parts of chapter 6.1 (see paras. 33 and 34 of report ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/48).

The ISO/CEN working group takes it as given that a similar submission for the other three standards would lead to the same results. The conclusion of the group therefore is that further work and any further efforts to supplement text of the Model Regulations will need to be agreed with

SCETDG in advance.

In case of these four standards the impression prevails that its vertical structure (one standard per package type) is not adequate to avoid overlaps with the Model regulations. However, a horizontal structure (one standard per test method) could have a chance to become related to the Model Regulations without overlap.

Provided that there is evidence, that the new standards could then be taken into reference, the ISO/CEN working group would be prepared to re-arrange the text of the standards adequately to set up individual standards on the performance of

- drop testing
- leakproofness testing
- hydraulic pressure testing
- stacking testing
- vibration testing
- etc.

These standards could be targeted to describe technical solutions for the execution of design type tests and deemed to limit variations in its performance.

A next meeting of ISO/TC122/SC3/WG8 "*Transport of dangerous goods*" is expected to take place in Lisbon in 2007.

The UN Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods is hereby invited to give guidance to ISO CEN how to proceed further with the standards and to give its opinion on the proposal as submitted above.
