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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

Thirty-second session  
Geneva, 3-12 (a.m.) December 2007  
Item 6 of the provisional agenda

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

Definition of closed cargo transport unit

Transmitted by the expert from Belgium<sup>\*/</sup>

**Background**

1. In July 2007, the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods decided to introduce the following definition of a closed cargo transport unit in section 1.2.1:

*Closed cargo transport unit: means a cargo transport unit which totally encloses the contents by permanent structures. Cargo transport units with fabric sides or tops are not considered closed cargo transport units.*

(See also ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/62, paras. 61-62 and annex 1).

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<sup>\*/</sup> In accordance with the programme of work of the Sub-Committee for 2007-2008 approved by the Committee at its third session (refer to ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/60, para. 100 and ST/SG/AC.10/34, para. 14) (Further measures to facilitate global harmonization of transport of dangerous goods regulations with the UN Model Regulations).

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2. The structure of this text (the definition itself, followed by an exception) is not optimal; a definition ought to be written in such a way that there are no exceptions to it.
3. Moreover, the exception made for cargo transport units with fabric sides or tops does not eliminate all unacceptable possibilities:
  - some flexible sides or tops remain possible (e.g. made out of plastics film, if someone might wish to use this material);
  - rigid sides or tops with openings in them (e.g. with a lattice-work or barred surfaces).

### **Proposal**

4. In consideration of the foregoing, it is proposed to amend the definition of a closed cargo transport unit in section 1.2.1 to read as follows:

***Closed cargo transport unit:** means a cargo transport unit which totally encloses the contents by permanent structures with complete and rigid surfaces.*

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