

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

19 November 2013

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Item 5 (g) of the provisional agenda

Miscellaneous proposals for amendments to the Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. packagings

Use of the letter “W” in packaging codes – additional information for INF.20 submitted by the expert from France

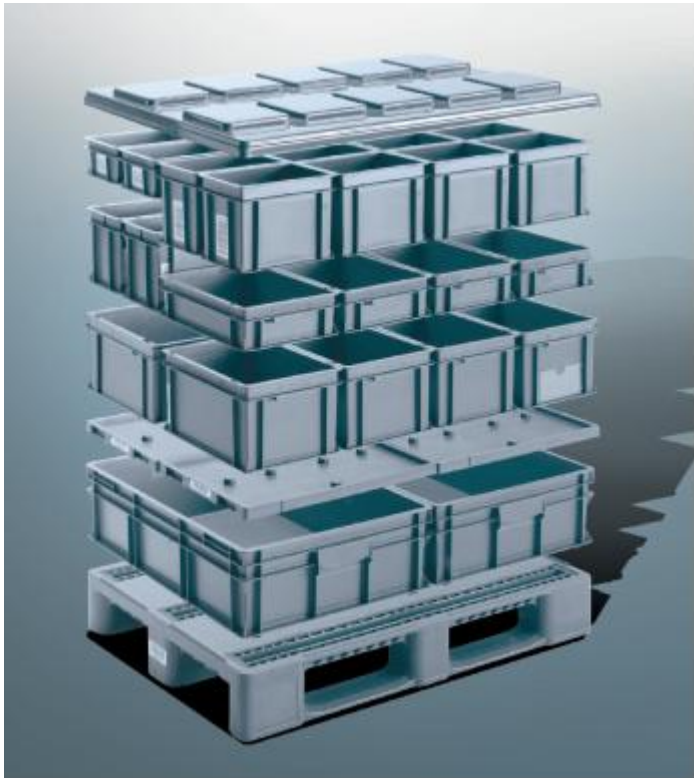
Transmitted by the expert from Belgium

Summary

Executive summary:	This paper provides additional information to complement informal document INF.20 regarding the use of the letter “W” in packaging codes.
Action to be taken:	Discuss together with informal document INF.20.
Related documents:	Informal document INF.12 (September 2013 session of the RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting) Informal document INF.24 (September 2013 session of the RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting).

Background

1. Informal document INF.20 describes a type of packaging, typically for the automotive industry which has an automated logistics and production workflow, consisting of multiple individual compartments put together to create a larger assembly. This is current practice in different countries, such as Belgium and Sweden and is illustrated in the pictures below. Contrary to what is stated in informal document INF.20, however, these individual compartments do not have their own lids or closures but the contents are retained by stacking other individual components on top of these compartments, which are in turn mounted on a specific pallet. For the upper compartments, a large lid is put in place and fastened, creating a packaging unit.



2. As these individual compartments do not possess individual closures, these cannot be approved or shipped as individually tested UN packagings. The assembled unit is instead regarded as a box with different compartments and the unit is tested according to all relevant “normal” UN testing requirements and (upon successful completion of the test regime) approved as 4H2W packaging for dangerous goods (e.g. air-bags for an automotive assembly line).
