

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

28 November 2013

Forty-fourth session

Geneva, 25 November – 4 December 2013

Item 3 e) of the provisional agenda

Electric storage systems: miscellaneous

Report of the Working Group on Lithium Batteries Hazard Communication

Introduction

1. During its 44th session the Sub-Committee hold two working groups to review the issue of Hazard Communication linked to Lithium Batteries.
2. The first working group consisted in a brainstorming session that allowed to identify problems and solutions while Competent Authorities could also express their concerns on a broad basis.
3. The working group met a second time to develop a proposal for a follow-up program.

Discussions

4. Three options were considered for enhancing the communication of the hazard properties of lithium batteries offered for transport.
 - OPTION 1. Do not change the current regulation but use existing rules to satisfy the need for the air mode
 - OPTION 2. Do not change Class 9 but define a specific hazard communication symbol that would be more appropriate to Li Batteries (and may be extended to other goods of Class 9).
 - OPTION 3. Adopt various divisions under Class 9, in accordance with the hazard characteristics of individual articles or groups of articles.

Recommendations

5. The working group reached a consensus on the follow-up to give on the development of a new/complementary hazard communication tool for Lithium batteries.
6. The working group recommended following a multistep approach starting with the concepts in option 2
 - (a) Prepare a proposal for labels for Lithium batteries that will characterize specific hazards under Class 9 in accordance with the type of goods (analogue to the way several Class 7 labels are designed).
 - (b) Evaluate the way the current marking system will integrate the proposals.

- (c) After a definition of the content of the label, propose a design for the label while considering what kind of hazard characteristics would be represented.
 - (d) This work should be coordinated with other work on including articles under Class 9 with appropriate hazard communication tools for this article.
 - (e) Keep the various modes of transport informed about the work in progress at the Sub-Committee level.
7. UK volunteered to prepare a proposal for the 45th session of the UN sub-committee for the Transport of Dangerous Goods (June 2014).
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