

**Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification
and Labelling of Chemicals**

22 June 2015

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Forty-seventh session

Geneva, 22 – 26 June 2015

Item 2 (i) of the provisional agenda

Explosives and related matters: miscellaneous

**Classification Procedures Relating to Liquid and Solid
Desensitized Explosives Under UN 3379 and UN 3380, and
Criteria for Exclusion of Energetic Substances**

Transmitted by the expert from the United States

Introduction

1. At the thirty-ninth session of the Sub-Committee, the Working Group on Explosives discussed issues of difficulty in conducting tests outlined in the Manual of Tests and Criteria (Test Manual). The Sub-Committee agreed that the Working Group should conduct a review of the tests mentioned in Parts I and II of the Manual with a view to:

- (a) Better defining the specifications of the tests;
- (b) Better defining the tolerances associated with those specifications; and
- (c) To remove any unnecessary or over-specifications.

2. As the Working Group continues to make improvements to the existing provisions of the Model Regulations this biennium, it is suggested that two areas that would benefit from review with a view to developing more specific criterion are the classification of liquid and solid desensitized explosives (UN 3379 and UN 3380), and the pathway for energetic substances to be excluded from Class 1.

3. Currently, the Model Regulations provide authorization for substances assigned to Class 1 to be excluded based on packaging (see Section 2.1.3.6.2) or by dilution (i.e. desensitized, see Section 2.1.3.6.3), based upon the results of UN Test Series 6. However in both of these cases, no specific criteria or methods are provided to aid the competent authority in making this determination.

Proposal

4. The Sub-Committee is invited to consider whether the Model Regulations would benefit from the inclusion of more specific provisions to address the classification of desensitized explosives. If the Sub-Committee is interested in pursuing this work, the United States would be willing to lead an informal correspondence working group to review the issue and develop proposals for consideration at a future session.