



**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****Forty-ninth session**

Geneva, 27 June – 6 July 2016

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Listing, classification and packing**Clarification relating to the test method for readily
combustible solids (UN Test N.1)****Transmitted by the expert from Germany¹**

1. The expert from Germany provided during the forty-eighth session of the Sub-Committee some information on the outcome of the discussions of the IGUS Working Group on Energetic and Oxidising Substances (EOS) on the test method for readily combustible solids (Informal document INF.42). Several delegations supported the idea to clarify the provisions of Test N.1 (United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Manual of Tests and Criteria, 33.2.1.4) and raised additional points requiring clarification. Interested delegations were invited to study the document and to transmit comments. As no comments were received before the deadline for formal proposals for the forty-ninth session, it is concluded that delegations need more time to study the issue completely.

2. Nevertheless, as a first step a decision should be taken on the length on the sample: The interpretation of the sentence “Powders of metals or metal alloys should be classified when they can be ignited and the reaction spreads over the whole length of the sample ...” (Manual of Tests and Criteria, 33.2.1.4.4.1): “...over the whole length...” – is not clear and lead to different interpretations of test results. Similar questions or rise concerning the texts in 33.2.1.4.4.2 and 33.2.1.4.4.3.

3. Based on the outcome of the discussion, the EOS Working Group came to the conclusion that the whole length of the rope (250 mm) is meant.

¹ In accordance with the programme of work of the Sub-Committee for 2015–2016 approved by the Committee at its seventh session (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/92, paragraph 95 and ST/SG/AC.10/42, para. 15).

Proposal

4. The Sub-Committee is invited to discuss the following amendments:
 - (a) The last sentence of 33.2.1.4.4.1 should be amended to read as follows:

“Powders of metals or metal alloys should be classified when they can be ignited and the reaction spreads over the whole length (250 mm) of the sample in 10 minutes or less.”
 - (b) The last sentence of 33.2.1.4.4.2 should be amended to read as follows:

“Packing group II should be assigned to powders of metals or metal alloys if the zone of reaction spreads over the whole length (250 mm) of the sample in five minutes or less.”
 - (c) The last sentence of 33.2.1.4.4.3 should be amended to read as follows:

“Packing group III should be assigned to metal powders if the reaction spreads over the whole length (250 mm) of the sample in more than five minutes but not more than ten minutes.”
5. As an editorial amendment it is proposed to correct the reference to 33.2.1.3.4.2 in 33.2.1.4.4.1 to “33.2.1.4.3.2”.
