



**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****Fiftieth Session**

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Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda

**Recommendations made by the Sub-Committee
on its forty-seventh, forty-eighth
and forty-ninth sessions and pending issues:
listing, classification and packing****Classification of infected animals – revised proposal****Transmitted by the World Health Organization (WHO) and
the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)¹****Introduction**

1. This document is in follow-up to discussions on the working document ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2016/35 of the forty-ninth session. At that session two amendment options were proposed in a revised informal document INF.72 following a working group discussion. Option 2 was favoured in the discussion after, but more time was required for delegates to consult with competent authorities and for further consultation by email.

2. The proposed amendments are to address inconsistencies between the following section/paragraphs in the Model Regulations: 1.2.1; 2.6.3.1.4; and 2.6.3.6.2, and the rationales behind the proposed amendments.

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).

Background

3. In section 1.2.1 (Definitions of the Model Regulations), the definition of “Animal material” requires the addition of a term in relation to “animal foodstuffs”. The word foodstuffs is used as human food in section 7.1.7.1 (Division 6.1 Toxic substances) and 2.2.2.4 (foodstuffs, including carbonated beverages in relation to Gases in Part 2.2) in the Model Regulations. The original intention to include “animal foodstuffs” in section 1.2.1 was to describe food and feed derived from animals (specifically of animal origin) such as “Meat and bone meal”. Addition of feedstuffs and specifying the origin of both foodstuffs and feedstuffs, will achieve clarity.

4. Paragraphs 2.6.3.1.3 and 2.6.3.1.4 are in the Model Regulations to help classification of infectious substances, in particular those listed as Category A (cultures only).

5. Paragraph 2.6.3.6.2 relates to animal material from infected animals without clarifying whether such infection was natural or intentionally induced. An intentionally induced infection starts a process to propagate pathogens. The introduction of this paragraph was probably related to transport of large quantity of animal carcasses affected by pathogens listed under Category A (cultures only).

6. Paragraph 2.6.3.6.2 enforces a specific classification on animal material affected by pathogens of Category A which creates inconsistency with definitions in section 1.2.1 and paragraph 2.6.3.1.4. without clearly defining the basis for such enforced classification.

7. Paragraph 2.6.3.6.2 classifies animal material affected by pathogens of Category A (cultures only) similar to the definition set forth under paragraph 2.6.3.1.3, i.e. as Cultures. Such enforced classification opens the door for two possible classification for an animal material affected by pathogens of Category A (cultures only). In other words, as per the definition in 2.6.3.1.4, such animal material would be classified as Category B, while as paragraph 2.6.3.6.2, it will be classified as Category A.

8. The criteria for classification of infectious substances is well defined in 2.6.3.2; which is risk-based. It is expected that users of these regulations should follow these criteria when classifying infectious substances.

9. The current text in paragraphs 1.2.1, 2.6.3.1.4 and 2.6.3.6.2 need to be amended in order to ensure clarity and proper, consistent and risk-based classification of infectious substances, by the competent authority, in line with the provisions related to Division 6.2 in the Model Regulations, this working document presents the proposed amendments to resolve the above mentioned inconsistencies.

Proposal

10. The following amendments are proposed. New text is underlined and deleted text is ~~strikethrough~~:

1. Section 1.2.1, Definition of animal material, to be modified as follows:

Animal material means animal carcasses, animal body parts, ~~or animal~~ foodstuffs or feedstuffs derived from animals.

Rationale: According to definitions by FAO, “Food” refers to edible material consumed by human and “Feed” refers to edible material consumed by animals (not including human). Adding both in the above definition covers both types of material and adding its source reaffirms its origin.

2. Paragraph 2.6.3.1.4 to be modified as follows:

“Patient Specimens are ~~human or animal materials~~, those collected directly from humans or animals, including, but not limited to, excreta, secreta, blood and its components, tissue and tissue fluid swabs, and body parts being transported for purposes such as research, diagnosis, investigational activities, disease treatment and prevention”.

Rationale: removing the words “animal material”, eliminates the inconsistency between this definition and the definition of animal material under 1.2.1.

3. Paragraph 2.6.3.6.2 to be modified as follows:

“Animal material affected by pathogens of Category A ~~or which would be assigned to Category A if they were in cultures only~~, by pathogens of Category B shall be assigned to UN No. 2814, ~~or UN No. 2900 or UN No. 3373 as appropriate following the criteria defined in 2.6.3.2~~. ~~Animal material affected by pathogens of Category B other than those which would be assigned to Category A if they were in cultures shall be assigned to UN No. 3373.~~

Rationale: The proposed changes removes the enforced classification for animal material affected by pathogens of Category A if they were in cultures only, ensures consistency with the risk-based approach defined under 2.6.3.2, renders the responsibility of classification to the competent authority and eliminates the inconsistency with paragraph 2.6.3.1.4.
