

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

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### Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

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Item 2 (i) of the provisional agenda

**Explosives and related matters: miscellaneous**

## Clarification of SP364

### Transmitted by the expert from Germany

#### Introduction

1. Special provision (SP) 364 stipulates the conditions for the application of provisions for limited quantities (LQ, chapter 3.4 of the model regulations) to class 1 dangerous goods, namely to:

- CARTRIDGES FOR WEAPONS, INERT PROJECTILE or CARTRIDGES, SMALL ARMS (0012),
- CARTRIDGES FOR WEAPONS, BLANK or CARTRIDGES, SMALL ARMS, BLANK or CARTRIDGES FOR TOOLS, BLANK (0014), and
- CASES, CARTRIDGE, EMPTY, WITH PRIMER (0055).

2. SP 364 uses a wording in relation to a test from the UN manual of tests and criteria (UN-MTC), which differs from other places in the model regulations concerning tests for class 1. The expert is of the opinion, that this wording may not exactly be what was intended to be expressed there. The text of SP 364 is:

*“This article may only be transported under the provisions of Chapter 3.4 if, as presented for transport, the package is capable of passing the test in accordance with Test Series 6(d) of Part I of the Manual of Tests and Criteria as determined by the competent authority.”*

#### Discussion

3. A matter of discussion has been in the past the wording of “*is capable of passing the test...*”. It may be possible to demonstrate the “capability of doing something” by a test and a related test report. However, more generally spoken capabilities are also judged by mere consideration or, if possible, by a calculation or other form of separate procedure without practical demonstration.

4. Experience gained at the Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing (BAM) with ammunition and the test series 6(d) has shown, that passing or failing the 6(d)-test depends on many parameters, where it remains very difficult to foresee a test outcome.

The criterion of the 6(d)-test, which will usually causes a “fail”, is found in the UN-MTC in chapter 16.7.1.4 (d) “A *projection which passes completely through the packaging (a projection or fragment retained or stuck in the wall of the packaging is considered as non-hazardous)*.”. This cannot be assessed other than through a test.

5. A number of ammunition types easily pass the 6(d)-Test, while for larger calibres pass or fail depend strongly on the placement inside the package and the bullet shape, just to mention two relevant parameters.

6. Where tests are required in the model regulations (and this does not prevent the application of analogy if justifiable and as set out in the introduction to the UN-MTC), this is usually expressed in the following way (non-comprehensive list):

- “... only if it is demonstrated, on the basis of tests, that ...” (SP 153)
- “Unless it can be demonstrated by testing that ...” (SP 224)
- “... showing dangerous properties when tested for their liability to detonate ...” (SP 241)
- “...unless authorized by the competent authority on the basis of results from Series 2 tests...” (SP 278)
- “... have been tested in accordance with Test Series 6(c) ...” (SP 280)
- “... if the results of Test series 6 (d) [...] have demonstrated ...“ (SP 347)

7. The variants listed above (not all referring to class 1) are very clear in their intention and contain a more appropriate wording for SP 364.

## Proposal

8. The wording in SP 364 should make clear that tests are the basis for the application of SP 364 and should be aligned with wordings found in other similar places. Therefore, a new wording for SP 364 is proposed as follows:

*“This article may only be transported under the provisions of Chapter 3.4 when authorised by the competent authority on the basis of test results from Test Series 6(d) of Part I of the Manual of Tests and Criteria with the package, as presented for transport.”*

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