

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 6 (b) of the provisional agenda

Miscellaneous proposals for amendments to the Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: marking and labelling

Design of the Lithium Battery Mark

Transmitted by the International Air Transport Association (IATA)

Introduction

1. The Subcommittee introduced into the 19th revised edition a new mark to apply to packages containing lithium batteries prepared in accordance with Special Provision 188. In considering the design of the new mark the size and design was based on the lithium battery handling label currently required by the ICAO Technical Instructions for “small” lithium batteries.
2. As the provisions in the 19th revised edition are being incorporated into the modal regulations and industry have been looking at the potential impact of the changes to the regulations it has been identified that the wording that describes the design of the new lithium battery mark, (Figure 5.2.5) as set out in paragraph 5.2.1.9.2 is not consistent with the wording used to describe the design of the limited quantity marks and other marks in the Model Regulations where for the background it is permitted to be “white or contrasting background”.
3. As many of these marks are pre-printed on to outer packagings the ability to make use of the “suitable contrasting background” provision has great benefit.
4. To address this, it is proposed that the wording of the text of the last part of paragraph 5.2.1.9.2 be revised to include the text “or suitable contrasting background”. As the modes are still in the process of finalising the text for the modal regulations to become effective 1 January 2017, the Subcommittee is invited to treat this change as a correction to the 19th revised edition of the Model Regulations and to invite the modal bodies to incorporate this text into the 2017 edition of their regulations.

Proposal

6. Amend the text of the last paragraph of 5.2.1.9.2 as follows:
“The mark shall be in the form of a rectangle with hatched edging. The dimensions shall be a minimum of 120 mm wide x 110 mm high and the minimum width of the hatching shall

be 5 mm. The symbol (group of batteries, one damaged and emitting flame, above the UN number for lithium ion or lithium metal batteries or cells) shall be black on white or suitable contrasting background. The hatching shall be red. If the size of the package so requires, the dimensions/line thickness may be reduced to not less than 105 mm wide x 74 mm high. Where dimensions are not specified, all features shall be in approximate proportion to those shown.
