
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

27 June 2017

Fifty-first session

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Item 7 of the provisional agenda

Global harmonization of transport of dangerous goods regulations with the Model Regulations

Assignment of special provision 238 to battery-powered equipment and vehicles

Submitted by the International Air Transport Association (IATA)

Introduction

1. The agenda of the last meeting of the ICAO Dangerous Goods Panel Working Group (DGP-WG/17) in late April included consideration of the changes adopted by the Subcommittee for the 20th revised edition of the Model Regulations for adoption into the 2019-2020 of the ICAO Technical Instructions.
2. At DGP-WG/17 it was identified that the Technical Instructions has special provision 238, ICAO special provision A67, assigned against UN 3171, BATTERY-POWERED EQUIPMENT or BATTERY-POWERED VEHICLE in addition being assigned against UN 2800, BATTERIES, WET, NON-SPILLABLE.
2. There was some discussion as to whether the entries should be harmonised with the Model Regulations, but the DGP-WG believed that there was merit in seeking the view of the Subcommittee on assigning SP 238 to UN 3171.
3. Based on the definition of “vehicle” as described in special provision 388 items such as battery-powered mobility aids are classified as UN 3171, BATTERY-POWERED VEHICLE. Where these mobility have batteries that are classified as UN 2800, BATTERIES, WET, NON-SPILLABLE and meet the provisions of special provision 238, it would appear logical that the mobility now be not subject to the Regulations. The same should also apply to battery-powered equipment where the battery is non-spillable and meets special provision 238.

Proposal

4. The Subcommittee is invited to consider if special provision 238 should also be assigned against UN 3171. If there is support for this a formal paper with the proposed changes to the regulatory provisions will be presented at the next session.
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