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

23 September 2020

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

Fifty-seventh session

Geneva, 30 November - 8 December 2020

Item 12 of the provisional agenda

Programme of work for the biennium 2021-2022

Implementation of the UN Model Regulations

Transmitted by the expert from the United States of America

Introduction

1. The UN Model Regulations serve as the international basis for the safe multimodal transportation of dangerous goods by promoting safety and facilitating transport. As supply chains expand across continents and become more complex, the work of this Sub-Committee and the importance of updating national dangerous goods regulations to the most recent edition of the Model Regulations becomes increasingly significant.

2. Technical progress and the development of new substances leads to modifications in each edition of the Model Regulations. National, regional, and international regulatory bodies update their respective regulations and standards on varying schedules according to applicable mandatory procedures. These varying schedules result in inconsistencies that can pose safety risks to the transportation system, specifically to transportation and handling personnel. In addition to increased safety risks, these inconsistencies may lead to frustrated shipments which incur unnecessary costs or delivery delays of critical medical or other quality of life commodities.

Discussion

3. In 2014, the Secretariat undertook an evaluation and found that the Model Regulations are widely known for air and maritime transport and form the basis of transport legislation in many countries. Although the Model Regulations serve as the foundation, each revised edition contains modifications intended to promote safety and inland transport regulations do not always reflect these revisions.

4. The Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals at its ninth session endorsed a draft resolution presented for consideration of the Economic and Social Council that recognizes the negative impacts associated with the uneven progress of updating inland transport regulations (ST/SG/AC.10/46, paragraph 18).

5. For example, one continent uses a range of Model Regulation editions, from thirteenth to the nineteenth. This wide range accounts for over a decade's worth of transportation safety advances resulting in regulatory inconsistencies and creating unnecessary transportation risks. These inconsistencies become most obvious when transporting limited quantities, excepted quantities, and small quantities of environmentally hazardous substances.

6. Further, colleagues in the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) Sub-Committee routinely discuss the global implementation of GHS by maintaining this topic as a standing agenda item. This type of discussion to track,

promote, and facilitate the use of the Model Regulations promotes safety, transparency, and facilitates transport. Understanding the applicable regulations throughout the transportation chain is critical to safety compliance.

Action Requested

7. The Sub-Committee is invited to discuss the merits of this informal paper for inclusion in the 2021-2022 biennium's program of work.
-