

**COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT
OF DANGEROUS GOODS**

(Twenty-first session, Geneva,

4-12 December 2000

Agenda Item 2(b)

Draft Amendments to the Model Regulations

Placarding of Limited Quantities

ST/SG/AC.10/2000/10

Transmitted by the Expert from Canada

1. Canada has concerns about the proposal put forward by the Experts from Australia, Germany and Sweden in ST/SG/AC.10/2000/10.
 2. The Model Regulations provide a regulatory framework that may be adopted by international modal bodies or by national authorities through national legislation. The Model Regulations may be adopted entirely or may serve as a framework upon which to base national or regional regulations taking into account social, political, geographical and economic realities.
 3. In ST/SG/AC.10/2000/10, there is a proposal to use an abbreviation of two English words in the placard. The labels and placards adopted for inclusion in the Model Regulations have enjoyed acceptance by national authorities and by international modal bodies like IMO and ICAO. This is partly due to symbols and numbers having been used to communicate the hazard of dangerous goods thus eliminating the problems that using words or abbreviations of words would cause.
 4. The use of letters that abbreviate two English words presents a problem for countries whose language is not English or for countries whose national legislation mandates the use of more than one official language as is the case in Canada. In Canada, we could not adopt English only text on labels or placards.
 5. The expert from Canada recommends that the Committee not accept this proposal at this time. In addition, a future decision should only be made while considering all the requirements that apply to limited quantities.
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Directory: C:\MyFiles\INTERNET\TRANS\DANGER\ME
ETINGS\ECOSOC\2000_12
Template: C:\Program Files\Microsoft
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Title: 24 September 2000
Subject:
Author: Michel Sastre
Keywords:
Comments:
Creation Date: 23/11/00 15.38
Change Number: 3
Last Saved On: 23/11/00 15.40
Last Saved By: UN/ECE
Total Editing Time: 1 Minute
Last Printed On: 24/11/00 17.10
As of Last Complete Printing
Number of Pages: 1
Number of Words: 260 (approx.)
Number of Characters: 1,482 (approx.)