

# UN/CETDG/21/INF.49

**COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE  
TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS  
(Twenty-first session, 4-13 December 2000  
agenda item 5)**

## **PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE 20001/2002 BIENNIUM AND RELATED PROPOSALS**

### **Publication of guiding principles of the UN Model Regulations**

#### **Transmitted by the expert from the United Kingdom**

#### **Introduction**

1. In recent biennia, the Sub-Committee and Committee of Experts have adopted certain guiding principles when reviewing various parts of the Model Regulations. This has been done to ensure that consistent decisions have been made, and that these have been applied equitably to all regulated substances and articles.
2. In particular, a rationalised approach was adopted for the development and assignment of portable tank instructions; guiding principles were adopted for the development of Packing Instructions; a rationale for the setting of limited quantity thresholds was agreed.
3. No doubt this approach has been applied almost from the inception of the Model Regulations for a number of other provisions. Unfortunately, as time goes by these guiding principles can be forgotten. As proposals are made for minor changes to the regulations, it is impossible to judge whether such changes fit the general approach or not. On occasions, text adopted many years ago is reviewed with current experts having no idea what the rationale for its existence was.
4. The guiding principles used for a particular item of work are generally recorded in the Report of the meeting session at which they are agreed. But again, the existence of these records can be forgotten, particularly as experts struggle to minimise the quantity of paper that they must carry to meetings.
5. The expert from the United Kingdom suggests that it would be helpful to all current and future experts attending the Transport of Dangerous Goods Sub-Committee to have available in one regularly updated document, a collection of adopted guiding principles. This would act as a source of information when considering future amendments to the Regulations. It is anticipated that the Secretariat could identify and draw together this information without undue resource implications and, since the document is unlikely to be unduly large, without additional publication costs.

6. In future, such a document might also be used to include some current Notes to the Model Regulations. In many cases such Notes, not forming part of the regulatory text, are simply to inform users. Such guidance might be better suited for inclusion in what might become a Guidance Note to the Model Regulations for the benefit of drafters of the Regulations and users alike.

**Proposal**

7. The expert from the United Kingdom proposes that:
  - a) the Secretariat be requested to identify all guiding principles, rationalised approaches and common approaches used in developing the Model Regulations and recorded in all session reports by April 2002;
  - b) that these be set out, in Part order, in the form of a supplement to the report of the July 2002 Sub-Committee session for review by that session;
  - c) that this document be adopted and distributed as a supplement to the Report of the December 2002 session;
  - d) that the document be updated and re-issued biennially thereafter.

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