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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

Thirty-third session Geneva, 30 June-9 July (a.m) 2008 Item 4 of the provisional agenda

LISTING, CLASSIFICATION AND PACKING

New entry for Chrysotile, in Class 9

Transmitted by the International Dangerous Goods and Containers Association (IDGCA)*

Introduction

- 1. At present Chrysotile is classified under the UN No. 2590 White asbestos (chrysotile, actinolite, anthophillite, tremolite).
- 2. Current classification for chrysotile to be in the same group as amphibole asbestos does not reflect scientific reality and therefore chrysotile should not be classified together with most dangerous amphibole types of asbestos.
- 3. The IDGCA proposition is based on the following argumentation:
 - (a) There is a scientific consensus that chrysotile is the least dangerous type of asbestos in comparison with amphibole types of asbestos and pose low risk for occupational groups and general population at low level and short-term exposure;

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^{*} In accordance with the programme of work of the Sub-Committee for 2007-2008 approved by the Committee at its third session (refer to ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/60 para. 100 and ST/SG/AC.10/34, para. 14)

- (b) The leading regulatory agencies are revising regulations of asbestos taking into account risk-based approach by fibre type basis;
- (c) The international organizations and conventions have also admitted the difference between fibre types and applied differentiated approach to regulation.
- 4. Supportive information including data sheet is provided in informal document INF.6.

Proposals

- 5. It is proposed to withdraw chrysotile from UN No. 2590 and to assigned an individual UN No (see data sheet in the annex).
 - (a) Add a new entry 3xyz in the Dangerous Goods List as follows:

UN No.	Name and description	Class or	Subsidiary risk	UN Packing group	Special provisions	Limited and excepted quantities	Packagings and IBCs		Portable tanks and bulk containers	
							Packing Instructions	Special packing provisions	Instructions	Special provisions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
3xyz	CHRYSOTILE or CHRYSOTILE FIBRE	9		Ш	168	NO	P002 IBC 08	PPXX B3,B4		

- (b) Add new special packing provisions PPXX For UN 3xyz, bags 5H2 and 5M1 are permitted. All bags of any type shall be:
 - shrink or stretch wrapped on pallets transported as overpacks; or
 - placed in flexible IBCs or closed rigid overpacks; or
 - transported in closed cargo transport units.
- (c) Add an entry for Chrysotile Fibre in the alphabetical index to read:

CHRYSOTILE	9	3xyz
or		
CHRYSOTILE FIBRE		

(d) In the description of UN 2590, delete the word "Chrysotile".

In the INDEX, delete "Chrysotile, see 9 2590" and add the following entries

9	3xyz"
9	3xyz"
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