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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**

**Fifty-fifth session**

Geneva, 1-5 July 2019

Item 4 (e) of the provisional agenda

Electric storage systems: sodium-ion batteries

Requirements for damaged or defective lithium cells and batteries in special provision 376

Transmitted by the Medical Device Battery Transport Council (MDBTC)[[1]](#footnote-1)\*

Introduction

1. During the last several sessions of the Sub-Committee, the issues associated with transporting and defining damaged or defective lithium cells and batteries have been discussed. This paper seeks to add additional clarity to the requirements of special provision 376 in the Model Regulations to address cells or batteries that have experienced a thermal event and no longer pose a risk in transport. The proposed amendment to special provision 376 provided in this paper is intended to address what has become a very common scenario facing shippers of damaged or defective lithium batteries. A cell or battery that has experienced a thermal event but does not present any additional hazard in transport should not need to be transported subject to the Model Regulations.

Proposal

1. Amend special provision 376 by adding an additional note as follows:

***“NOTE****: Cells, single cell batteries or batteries that have experienced a thermal event, that no longer meet the definition of “cell” or “battery” and have been proven to no longer pose a risk in transport (e.g., no residual electrolyte, no energy, no ability to produce a dangerous evolution of heat, fire or short circuit), are not subject to these Regulations unless they meet the criteria for inclusion in another class.”.*

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1. \* In accordance with the programme of work of the Sub-Committee for 2019-2020 approved by the Committee at its ninth session (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/108, paragraph 141 and ST/SG/AC.10/46, paragraph 14). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)