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

**Sub-Committee of Experts on the
Transport of Dangerous Goods**
(Eighteenth session, 3-14 July 2000,
agenda item 5 (a))

**MISCELLANEOUS DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL REGULATIONS
ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS**

Listing and classification

**Proposal for amending ammonium nitrate entries;
consequences for Global Harmonisation and Downstream Regulations**

Transmitted by the expert of the Netherlands

At its seventeenth session, the Sub-Committee discussed proposal ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/1999/59 transmitted by Canada, United States of America and EFMA. The expert of the Netherlands has commented that the proposed test methods were not discriminative enough to screen out potentially dangerous products, especially when large quantities of fertiliser are involved. This effect is due to the phenomenon of self-confinement allowing the product to be more susceptible to shock and to propagate a detonation.

The majority of the number of transports of this product is packed in bags of 25 or 50 kg. In that way, a compartmentation is obtained which reduces the self-confinement effect.

For this type of transport, the proposed methodology of testing (this is: performing Test Series 1 and 2) is sufficient. The expert of the Netherlands can therefore agree with simplifying and reducing the number of entries of fertilisers.

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The aim of this proposal is to point out the consequences for the downstream Regulations and for the Globally Harmonised System.

In establishing transport conditions for the proposed new entries, the differences in carriage of packaged material and carriage in bulk in containers or vehicles or when shipped in bulk by sea or inland waterways should be made clear. A more severe test for the latter case will be necessary. This fact is already recognised by IMO, since in the Code of Safe Practice for Solid Bulk Cargoes (BC Code, Appendix D.5) of the IMDG Code a requirement to perform a larger scale (approximately 100 mm diameter) detonation test is included. This test is currently harmonised with the similar test used in the European Union.

The same consideration applies for the storage of large quantities of bulk fertiliser.

The expert from the Netherlands proposes that this document serves as a background document for the above mentioned modes.
