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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), (i))

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

Precedence of Hazard Characteristics

Transmitted by the Expert from the United States of America

Discussion

1. At present, the Precedence of Hazards Table (see 2.0.3.3) does not address the precedence of hazards for substances meeting the definitions of both Class 3 and Division 4.3. The number of substances transported internationally and possessing this combination of hazard characteristics is increasing. Examples of such substances include various organometallic compounds that are transported as solutions in flammable solvents. To provide appropriate guidance in the determination of the primary hazard characteristic for substances, mixtures and solutions meeting both the defining criteria for Class 3 and Division 4.3, the expert from the United States believes the Precedence of Hazards Table in 2.0.3.3 should be revised to address this combination of hazards.

2. In addition, sub-section 2.0.3 provides no guidance concerning the determination of the primary hazard characteristic for a substance, mixture or solution meeting the defining criteria for more than two of the classes or divisions addressed in the Precedence of Hazards Table. It would be useful if the Model Regulations provided clear guidance as to the manner in which the precedence of hazards should be determined in such cases - even if only by clearly stating that such classifications, as well as the proper shipping name, UN number and any additional subsidiary risk labels to be applied, should be to the satisfaction of the competent authority. A practical problem encountered in this regard, is that carriers often refuse to accept packages bearing additional subsidiary risk labels applied to communicate the presence of all hazards exhibited by such substances, mixtures or solutions, because the Model Regulations do not specifically provide for the application of such additional subsidiary risk labels (i.e., the “n.o.s.” entries in the Dangerous Goods List do not specifically address, or provide for labeling to communicate the presence of, more than two hazards).

Proposals

3. In light of the foregoing, the Sub-Committee is invited to consider:

- (a) Revising the Precedence of Hazards Table to establish a hazard precedence between Class 3 and Division 4.3. In this connection, the following precedence scheme is suggested:

Hazard Class and Packing Group	4.3 I	4.3 II	4.3 III
3 I	3	3	3
3 II	4.3	3	3
3 III	4.3	4.3	3

- (b) Whether amendment of 2.0.3.1 is necessary in order to address the manner in which the precedence of hazards should be determined for substances, mixtures or solutions meeting the definition of more than two of the hazard classes or divisions covered by the Precedence of Hazards Table. In particular, the procedure for selecting the primary hazard and the application of additional subsidiary risk labels (i.e., labels not otherwise required by the Model Regulations) to packages containing such multiple hazard substances, mixtures or solutions should be addressed.

Based on the outcome of the Sub-Committee’s discussions of these matters, the expert from the United States will prepare comprehensive proposals, including any necessary consequential amendments, for consideration by the Committee at its next session.
