

**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**  
(Twentieth session, 3-11 December 2001,  
agenda item 6)

**TRANSPORT OF INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES**

**Chapter 5.5 – Special provisions**

**Special provisions applicable to consignment of infectious substances**

**Transmitted by the expert from Australia**

**Introduction**

The UN Model Regulations currently require that the consignor notify the consignee of transport details in advance, for infectious substances - 5.5.1.2(d). This information must include means of transport, flight or train numbers, transport document number and date or hour of expected arrival.

While such arrangements may be good management practice, especially for perishable substances, it is in many circumstances impossible to comply with these requirements, notably for international consignments. It may also be a security risk if consignors are told what flight or train their package is to go on.

The Australian Civil Aviation Safety Authority has advised that for security reasons, consignors are not given the exact flight details by airlines.

The requirement to provide a flight or train number should therefore be deleted entirely from 5.5.1.2(d)

We would also like to propose that the rest of 5.5.1.2 should be amended to make it a recommendation rather than a mandatory requirement.

## Proposal

Delete reference to flight or train numbers and make text of 5.5.1.2 merely recommendatory, not mandatory:

5.5.1.2 The transport of infectious substances requires co-ordinated action by the consignor, the carrier and the consignee to ensure safety and arrival on time and in proper condition. To this end, the following measures ~~shall be taken~~ are recommended.

- (a) *Advance arrangements between consignor, carrier and consignee.* Dispatch of infectious substances ~~shall~~ should not take place before advance arrangements have been made between consignor, carrier and consignee or before the consignee has confirmed with his competent authorities that the substances can legally be imported and that no delay will be incurred in the delivery of the consignment to its destination;
  - (b) *Preparation of dispatch documents.* In order to secure transmission without hindrance it is necessary to prepare all dispatch documents, including the transport document (see Chapter 5.4), in strict accordance with rules governing the acceptance of the goods to be dispatched;
  - (c) *Routing.* Whatever the mode used, transport ~~shall~~ should-be by the quickest possible routing. If transshipment is necessary, precautions ~~shall~~ should-be taken to ensure special care, expeditious handling and monitoring of the substances in transit;
  - (d) *Timely notification of ~~all~~ transport data by consignor to consignee.* The consignor ~~shall~~ should attempt to notify the consignee in advance of transport details, such as: means of transport, ~~flight or train number(s)~~ transport document number and date and hour of expected arrival at the point of destination, so that the consignment can be collected promptly. The most rapid means of communication ~~shall~~ should-be used for this notification.
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