

**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**

**(Twenty-second session, 2-6 December 2002,  
agenda item 6)**

**Default System For Classification Of Fireworks**

**Transmitted by the Expert from the United States of America**

1. The Sub-Committee did not reach an agreement on a default system for the classification of fireworks at its twenty-first session. The Expert from the United States of America did not support the results presented to the Sub-Committee by the working group because it was incomplete and did not take account of provisions currently used in default systems used in countries that have long and extensive experience using these systems for the classification of fireworks.
2. The Expert from the United States of America believes that the incorporation of a default classification system for fireworks in the Model Regulations is a worthwhile effort that will enhance safety and requests that the Committee include this in its work program for the 2003 – 2004 biennium.
3. The US intends to submit a proposal for a default classification system for fireworks for consideration at the Sub-Committee's twenty-third session in July, 2003 based on the following principles:
  - a) Fireworks can always be classified in accordance with the classification requirements for explosives in the UN Model Regulations.
  - b) The default system should be based on the experience gained through the use of default systems practiced in many countries. Limits (mass and composition) defined for each category shall be conservative and not necessarily based on test data for specific products.
  - c) The criteria in the default system shall be based on the mass and composition of the pyrotechnic used in the fireworks rather than the physical dimensions of the fireworks.
  - d) The default system shall cover Divisions 1.1G, 1.2G, 1.3G, 1.4G, and 1.4S. Items assigned to Div. 1.4S shall be specific and limited.

The US welcomes comments from other experts on the principles described above so we can take them into account in our proposal.

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