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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  
(Twenty-third session, 30 June-4 July 2003,  
agenda item 3 (a))

**EXPLOSIVES, SELF-REACTIVE SUBSTANCES AND ORGANIC PEROXIDES**

**Classification criteria for fireworks**

**Transmitted by the expert from the Netherlands**

**Introduction**

In the past biennium a default list for the classification of fireworks was discussed. After two working groups the Sub-Committee decided at its twenty-first session that the discussion could not be concluded in the biennium 2001-2002 because an immediate decision on the default classification of rockets and roman candles was not possible.

The Sub-Committee decided to defer the question of elaborating a system of default classification until the next biennium on the basis of the results of the working group ( see paras. 14-21 of the report ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/42).

**Objective of this proposal**

The Netherlands are in favour of a quick solution of the dilemma of the default classification of Roman candles and rockets in order to have a default list as soon as possible. This is very important for the feasibility and enforceability of the regulation.

## **Discussion**

The working group in July last year was attended by representatives of fifteen countries and reached consensus on most of the points.

A default list together with an introductory text was presented in the report of the working group for the Sub-Committee which was annexed to the report ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/42/Add.2.

In the case of Roman candles and rockets no agreement could be reached within the working group.

Although it is not necessary, in the opinion of the Netherlands, for the system of the default classification to include all types of fireworks and every hazard division, it is important to have consensus on the classification of important types of fireworks.

Besides that, the discussion in the UN Sub-Committee showed a strong interest of including all kind of fireworks and especially the important types of lower hazard fireworks of division 1.4G. These fireworks are well known in many countries as consumer fireworks.

When fireworks are listed in the default list the necessity of testing is no longer present. Therefore the default classification should stay on the safe side of classification (“worst case”-principle). This principle was accepted by the working group and applied by the development of the default list as presented.

Test results presented in the working group showed that adapting the criterion of fiery projection from 15 metres to for example 40 metres, does not solve the problem because many of these articles show a much higher fiery projection distance. Therefore another criterion must be found to differentiate between rockets and Roman candles in division 1.3G and 1.4G.

Two possible options are:

- A criterion in terms of weight limits and composition.
- The use of special packages which in the 6c) test shows fiery projection distances considerably less than fifteen meters. This possibility does not affect the existing criteria.

On the first option it should be discussed whether a special warning is necessary for emergency response to reflect a possible fiery projection of more than fifteen meter.

## **Proposal**

It is proposed to discuss the options given in order to find a solution for the dilemma of the default classification of Roman candles and rockets.

Furthermore it is proposed to decide on the square brackets which are still left in the default list as presented in the report of the working group on the basis of additional information (see the report ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/42/Add.2).

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