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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 4 (a))

PACKAGINGS

Evaluation of the United Nations packaging requirements

Transmitted by the expert from the Netherlands

Introduction

The Sub-Committee decided at its twenty-second session to include in the work programme for the coming biennium: "Evaluation of the United Nations packaging requirements".

The Netherlands submitted document UN/SCETDG/22/INF.6 to the last Sub-Committee meeting in December 2002 for discussion. A report of the investigation made by the research and testing institute TNO Product Testing & Consultancy on the evaluation of UN-packaging requirements is included in the addendum to INF.6.

Proposals

1. General discussion on packagings

It is proposed to evaluate the packaging requirements of the UN Recommendations and formulate the conclusions thereon in terms of further action.

The Netherlands suggest to use INF 6 as input for this discussion.

Typical matters to be discussed are, amongst others:

- Are the requirements enough in order to ensure a safe transport (for all modes)?
- What is the nature of the problems which are encountered in practice?
- Enforceability of the requirements?
- Implementation of the requirements world wide?

2. Update of the present text on packagings

Another issue to be discussed is updating the present text of the UN requirements with regard to packagings (see recommendation No.1 of the report INF.6/Add.1).

The Netherlands proposes to establish a small working group with the following terms of reference:

- To review Chapters 6.1, 6.5 and 6.6 (Requirements for the construction and testing of packagings, Intermediate Bulk Containers and Large Packagings) of the UN Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods;
- This review would consist of bringing these chapters up-to-date, taking into account the practical experiences with the present regulations; and,
- This review would be of an editorial and technical character and should not lead to fundamental changes (e.g. the introduction of new test methods).

The Sub-Committee is invited to discuss these proposals and to organize the work.
