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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 6 (b))

LISTING, CLASSIFICATION AND PACKING

Dangerous Goods List

Expression of Percentage in the Dangerous Goods List

Transmitted by the expert from South Africa

Background

Paragraph 1.2.2.4(a) of the UN Model Regulations states that, in the case of mixtures of solids or of liquids of solutions and of solids wetted by a liquid, a percentage mass is based on the total mass of the mixture, solution or wetted solid.

Discussion

Where percentages are applicable for dangerous mixtures and solutions as defined in 1.2.2.4(a), most of the entries in the dangerous goods list indicate "by mass" against such entries. However, this protocol is not consistently applied and it can be confusing to users not familiar with the different clauses of the Model Regulations. For example, all the nitroglycerin entries express the nitroglycerin content as "percentage, by mass", except for the nitroglycerin solutions in alcohol.

Proposal

For the sake of consistency and for user friendliness it is proposed that, throughout the dangerous goods list, the term "by mass" be added, where applicable.
