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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 and marking of explosives

Transmitted by the International Technical Committee for the Prevention
and Extinction of Fire (CTIF)

1. At the twenty-first meeting of the Sub-Committee of Experts, a Working Group discussed and produced a report on the default classification system for fireworks.

As test 6 (c) stands, roman candles and rockets must be placed in Division 1.3 if the “projection distance” is more than 15 metres and into Division 1.4G if the ‘projection distance’ is between 5 and 15 metres. It was pointed out by the expert from the Netherlands that there is no criteria for the lower level under the TNO test.
2. The experts from the United States of America and from the United Kingdom have taken the view that these articles are produced to shoot away and so the classification must be based on a practical level of 20 grams of pyrotechnic material.
3. CTIF disagrees with the views of the experts from the United States of America and from the United Kingdom and believes the classification should be based on the 6 (c) test results as these materials, when carried in bulk, can present considerable danger to firefighters and the public.
4. CTIF therefore believes the UN criteria for the classification of fireworks should be based entirely on the test results criteria and therefore supports the proposals from the Netherlands.

5. CTIF is concerned that the danger labels for Division 1.4, 1.5 and 1.6 explosives do not require an “exploding bomb” pictogram, and believes this to be a serious omission as the danger for larger quantities of a higher division of explosive can present just as great a danger as a smaller quantity of a lower Division explosive. CTIF points out that all Class 1 substances are by definition explosives and therefore should be clearly marked as such. CTIF would therefore like to bring this to the attention of the Sub-Committee for future discussion.
