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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-fourth session, 1-10 December 2003,
agenda item 6 (a))

LISTING, CLASSIFICATION AND PACKING

Hydrated calcium hypochlorite mixtures

Transmitted by the expert from the United States of America

Background

1. During the last biennium, the Committee amended the entry for "CALCIUM HYPOCHLORITE HYDRATED or CALCIUM HYPOCHLORITE HYDRATED MIXTURE" (UN 2880) to provide a possibility to classify such goods in packing group III, but only when transported in non-friable, tablet form (see Special Provision 316). The expert from the United States of America believes that all technically pure hydrated calcium hypochlorite (i.e., not formulated) meets the criteria for classification in Division 5.1, packing group II. However, since UN 2880 also covers mixtures of hydrated calcium hypochlorite in any concentration, some formulations in other than tablet form (e.g., in granular form) may meet the criteria for classification in Division 5.1, packing group III when subjected to the relevant test in the Manual of Tests and Criteria. Moreover, other formulations, when tested, do not meet the criteria for classification in Division 5.1. In light of this, the expert from the United States of America believes that the UN 2880 entry should be amended to provide for the possibility to classify powdered or granular mixtures of hydrated calcium hypochlorite in packing group III when appropriate, as well as to permit formulations that are shown not to meet the criteria for classification in Division 5.1 or any other class to be considered as non-dangerous (as is provided in Special Provision 223).

2. To accomplish this, while still maintaining the possibility to classify hydrated calcium hypochlorite in tablet form in packing group III without the need for testing (as is currently provided in Special Provision 316), the following changes to UN 2880 would be necessary:

- (a) Special provision 316 should be deleted from the packing group III line of the entry, and a new special provision added to the packing group II line of the entry providing that goods in non-friable tablet form may be assigned to packing group III.
- (b) Special provisions 313 and 314 should be added to the packing group III line of the entry since these provisions may be equally applicable to powdered or granular mixtures meeting the criteria for classification in packing group III.
- (c) Special provision 223 should be added to the packing group III line of the entry to allow mixtures not meeting the criteria for classification in Division 5.1 or in any other class, to be considered non-dangerous.

Proposals

- 3. In light of the foregoing, the following specific amendments are proposed to UN 2880:
 - (a) In Column (5) of the packing group II line of the entry, insert a reference to new special provision "XXX".
 - (b) In Column (5) of the packing group III line of the entry, delete the reference to special provision "316", and insert reference to special provisions "223", "313" and "314".
 - (c) In Chapter 3.3, insert a new special provision "XXX" to read:

"XXX When transported in non-friable tablet form, these goods are assigned to packing group III."
 - 4. As a consequence of the amendments proposed above, the words "or hydrated" should be deleted from the text of special provision 316 in Chapter 3.3.
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