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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 9)

MISCELLANEOUS PROPOSALS OF AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL REGULATIONS
ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

Sequence of information on transport document

Transmitted by the expert from the United States of America

Background

1. In the twelfth revised edition of the UN Model Regulations an additional sequence of information was introduced. Prior to this, the Model Regulations specified a single sequence of information (PSN, Class, UN number, PG). The amendment to authorize two sequences was the result of a compromise that was reached after long and difficult negotiations. Since the adoption of the two alternative sequences, regulatory authorities and organizations have taken steps to implement this compromise solution in transport regulations that apply throughout the world.

At its 22nd session, the majority of Sub-Committee members indicated a preference for a single sequence of information. Several experts indicated that they would support adoption of a single sequence if a transition period was provided to afford industry the opportunity to make the necessary arrangements to comply with the single sequence requirement while minimizing the costs and burdens associated with such a change. The expert from the United States of America agrees that a single sequence of information is preferable while noting that incremental safety enhancements will be achieved as a result.

Preliminary discussions seem to indicate that adoption of a single sequence in the 14th revised edition of the Model Regulation would result in an acceptable implementation date of January 2007. We invite comment on whether an implementation date of 1 January 2007 will provide for a reasonable transition to a single sequence.

Proposal

2. It is proposed to amend 5.4.1.4.1 and 5.4.1.4.2 as follows:

5.4.1.4.1 Dangerous goods description

The dangerous goods transport document shall contain the following information for each dangerous substance, material or article offered for transport:

- (a) The UN number preceded by the letters “UN”;
- (b) The proper shipping name, as determined according to 3.1.2, including the technical name enclosed in parenthesis, as applicable (see 3.1.2.8);
- (c) The primary hazard class or, when assigned, the Division of the goods, including for Class 1, the compatibility group letter. The words “Class” or “Division” may be included preceding the primary hazard class or division numbers;
- (d) Subsidiary hazard class or division number(s), when assigned, shall be entered following the primary hazard class or division and must be enclosed in parenthesis. The words “Class” or “Division” may be included preceding the subsidiary hazard class or division numbers;
- (e) Where assigned, the packing group for the substance or article which may be preceded by “PG” (e.g. “PG II).

5.4.1.4.2 Sequence of the dangerous goods description

The five elements of the dangerous goods description specified in 5.4.1.4.1 shall be shown in the order listed above (e.g. (a), (b), (c), (d), (e)) with no information interspersed, except as provided in these Regulations. Examples of a dangerous goods description are:

UN1098 ALLYL ALCOHOL 6.1 (3) I
UN1098, ALLYL ALCOHOL, Division 6.1, (Class 3), PG I

NOTE: In addition to the requirements of these Regulations, other elements of information may be required by the competent authority or for certain modes of transport (e.g. flash point for sea transport). Unless permitted or required by these Regulations, additional information shall be placed after the dangerous goods description.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

3. The Sub-Committee is invited to consider this proposal and take action as deemed appropriate.
