



Secretariat

Distr.
GENERAL

ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2006/43
11 April 2006

Original: ENGLISH

**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-ninth session
Geneva, 3-12 (a.m.) July 2006
Item 9 of the provisional agenda

**OPTIONS TO FACILITATE GLOBAL HARMONIZATION OF TRANSPORT OF
DANGEROUS GOODS REGULATIONS WITH THE UN MODEL REGULATIONS**

First steps in resolving outstanding issues

Transmitted by the expert from the United Kingdom

Background

1. At the 27th session of the Sub-Committee, the experts from the United Kingdom and Canada submitted document ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2005/20. This was mainly a discussion paper, outlining current problems and suggesting options for the future.
2. In the light of further discussions at the 28th session, it was agreed that taking this issue forward should be on the basis of specific proposals submitted to the Sub-Committee for consideration. The expert from the United Kingdom now proposes the following to either as agreed actions from the current session or as work items for the next biennium. These are in no particular order of priority.

Proposals

3. Appoint a technical editor to review the text of the Model Regulations to identify inconsistencies in language and format. These would be taken up with either the Secretariat or a designated editorial group of experts, without the need to involve the

GE.06-

whole Sub-Committee, to put forward proposals for editorial changes. Such a technical editor should be provided either by a willing country/organisation or paid for from the budget of the UNECE Transport Division.

4. Much of the Model Regulations contains material that could more logically be moved to the Manual of Tests and Criteria. In particular, it is proposed that this should include:
 - (a) most of the material on classification (Part 2). An expanded Chapter 2.0 (definitions) would remain in the Model Regulations, which would include introductory text for each of the Classes of dangerous goods; and as the "OP" list for self-reactive substances relates to packing methods, it should be transferred from the table currently in 2.4.2 to Packing Instruction P520;
 - (b) material on design specifications and test methods for means of containment (Part 6). Marking and periodic inspection requirements would remain in the Model Regulations. Certain introductory text would need to remain in the Model Regulations, but the bulk could be moved to the Manual of Tests and Criteria.

The current split between the Model Regulations and the Manual of Tests and Criteria could perhaps be 'rebranded', as 'Volume I – operational provisions' and 'Volume II - specialist technical operations' respectively.

5. Review the existing terms of reference for each of the UN sub-committees and the modal bodies in respect of the compatibility of texts or draw up a Memorandum of Understanding between the UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the relevant modal, regional and sector-specific UN bodies. This would require the modal bodies to present their reports to the Sub-Committee and to make them available on publicly-accessible websites. Agendas and papers should also be publicly accessible. It would be necessary for the modal secretariats to attend UN Sub-Committee meetings and vice versa. A Memorandum would emphasise the multi-modal nature of the UN Sub-Committee, such that issues with multi-modal aspects should be dealt with by the UN Sub-Committee, ensuring appropriate modal expertise within delegations, thereby obviating the need for modal bodies to review and amend UN texts. Equally, modal bodies identifying new issues that may have multi-modal consequences would draw them to the attention of the Sub-Committee **before** amending their own texts (unless in response to a major accident/safety incident).
6. The Sub-Committee should recognise progress on the alignment of UN and IAEA provisions. It should recommend to the IAEA that it consider the re-formatting of the IAEA regulations to harmonise with the format of UN and modal texts. It should be noted that it is understood that ICAO is also considering closer alignment of its text to the format of the UN Model Regulations.
7. Revisions to the Model Regulations should indicate clearly where changes have been made from the previous edition in the published texts. It would be preferable for the modes to do likewise.

8. The Secretariat should circulate to the Sub-Committee the existing provisions regarding the consignment of dangerous goods in the postal system. The Sub-Committee should consider (in conjunction with the appropriate postal bodies) whether these are still adequate and appropriate or should be reviewed and included in the Model Regulations.
 9. The Sub-Committee should consider as a matter of course transitional provisions for all amendments adopted to the text of the Model Regulations. These should be included in the Model Regulations in order to ensure modal consistency of application.
-