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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-ninth session
Geneva, 3-12 (a.m.) July 2006
Item 7 of the provisional agenda

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

P650

Transmitted by the International Air Transport Association (IATA)

Background

1. Packing Instruction P650 first appeared in the 12th revised edition of the UN Model Regulations as a result of the adoption of the new entry “UN 3373 – Diagnostic specimens”.
2. The requirements of P650 largely reflected the provisions of Packing Instruction 650 as it appeared in the ICAO Technical Instructions at that time. These provisions had been developed by the air transport industry to ensure that “diagnostic specimens” were contained in good quality packagings that would be strong enough to withstand normal conditions of transport and which would not leak or fail during transport.
3. Diagnostic specimens at that time were those being transported for diagnostic or investigational purposes and were not expected to contain pathogens that could pose a risk of infection to humans or animals. Based on these expectations, the packing instruction specifically excluded all other parts of the Regulations, provided that specimens were packed in accordance with the packing instruction. This meant that

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persons involved in the classification, packaging or consignment of UN 3373 were not subject to the training requirements contained in Chapter 1.3.

4. Since that time, the classification criteria for infectious substances have been extensively revised and indeed the term, and definition of, “diagnostic specimens” has been deleted from the Regulations. What is now in place is effectively three categories of infectious substances:
 - (a) Category A (UN 2814/UN 2900) – P620;
 - (b) Category B (UN 3373) – P650; and
 - (c) Exempt human/animal specimens with a recommended packaging standard similar to P650.
5. Based on the above, UN 3373 – BIOLOGICAL SUBSTANCE, CATEGORY B packed according to P650 are substances known to contain infectious substances. Therefore the training provisions of Chapter 1.3 should apply to persons involved in transporting these substances and in addition it should be clear that classification of substances packed according to P650 must be in accordance with the provisions of 2.6.3.2.

Proposal

It is proposed that paragraph (11) of P650 be amended as follows:

- “(11) Infectious substances assigned to UN 3373, which are packed and marked in accordance with this packing instruction are not subject to any other requirement in these Regulations except for the following:
- (a) the training requirements of Chapter 1.3; and
 - (b) classification must be in accordance with 2.6.3.2.”
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