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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

Thirty-first session  
Geneva, 2-6 July 2007  
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**LISTING, CLASSIFICATION AND PACKING**

Proper shipping names for electric and electronic detonators

Submitted by the expert from Australia

**Introduction**

1. The Australian Explosives Industry and Safety Group have submitted a proposal to the expert from Australia to modify the Proper Shipping Name (PSN) used for electric detonators to also include a specific reference to electronic detonators. This is considered necessary as the two items are different in the manner in which they are operated and the level of risk associated with their use. However, the differences in respect to the safety during transport are minimal, so both can be covered by the same Dangerous Goods List entry in the Model Regulations.

**Issues**

2. Both electric and electronic detonators have similar fuse heads and base charges and perform in the same manner in series 6 testing for the purpose of classification. Functionally they are quite different in that an electric detonation is initiated by an electric charge, whereas an electronic detonator is initiated by a specifically coded signal sent to an integrated microprocessor.

3. Amending the PSN to allow the use of the term electric or electronic detonators would permit transport and inventory documentation to be harmonised, and clearly identify the handling risk associated with each type.

**Proposal**

4. It is recommended the PSN in column 2 of the dangerous Goods List for UN0030, UN0255 and UN0456 be amended to read:

“DETONATORS, ELECTRIC or DETONATORS, ELECTRONIC for blasting”

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