UNITED NATIONS **ST**

Secretariat

Distr.
GENERAL

ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2008/58
16 April 2008

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

Thirty-third session
Geneva, 30 June-9 July (a.m) 2008
Item 7 of the provisional agenda

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

Reference to International Standard IEC 62281 for Lithium Battery Transport Tests.

Transmitted by the European Portable Battery Manufacturers Association (EPBA);
The International Association for Portable Rechargeable batteries (RECHARGE)
and the Portable Rechargeable Battery Association (PRBA)[*]

1. Lithium batteries, UN 3090 and UN 3091, are subject to safety testing according to the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, *Manual of Tests and Criteria*. Recently, the following International Standard, emanating from the joint working group IEC/TC 35/SC21A/JWG 12 - Safety of primary and secondary lithium batteries during transport, has been published:

> IEC 62281 *"Safety of primary and secondary lithium cells and batteries during transport*".
>
> Copies (in English, French and German) of the FDIS will be available separately.

[*] In accordance with the programme of work of the Sub-Committee for 2007-2008 approved by the Committee at its third session (refer to ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/60 para. 100 and ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/34, para. 14).

It appears that this standard is of interest in connection with the activity of the Sub-Committee and we should be grateful if the members of the Sub-Committee take notice of it.

2. The International Standard IEC 62281 stands in line with other International Standards addressing the safety of lithium batteries. These are in particular:

(a) IEC 60086-4 "*Primary Batteries – Part 4: Safety of lithium batteries*"

In the scope it is stated that this International Standard specifies tests and requirements for primary lithium batteries to ensure their safe operation under intended use and reasonably foreseeable misuse.

(b) IEC 62133 "*Secondary cells and batteries containing alkaline or other non-acid electrolytes – Safety requirements for portable sealed secondary cells, and for batteries made from them, for use in portable applications*".

The scope is to specify requirements and tests for the safe operation of portable sealed secondary cells and batteries (other than button) containing alkaline or other non-acid electrolyte, under intended use and reasonably foreseeable misuse.

It is important to realize that this standard covers two electrochemical systems of rechargeable batteries, Lithium and Nickel.

3. During the draft of IEC 62281, Technical Committee 35, while observing its horizontal safety function for non-rechargeable and rechargeable batteries within the International Electrical Commission (IEC), spent much effort on harmonizing its contents strictly with chapter 38.3 of the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, *Manual of Tests and Criteria*. Its format was however chosen so that harmonization of the existing standards on lithium batteries mentioned above would be facilitated. Current maintenance work is aiming at the harmonization of IEC 60086-4 with IEC 62281.

4. The importance of safety testing of lithium batteries is undoubtedly underlined and supported by a series of Industrial Standards addressing the subject not only from the transportation point of view but also under the aspects of their intentional use and reasonably foreseeable misuse.

5. In order to facilitate the regulators' control over the contents of the referenced standard, we plan to propose a dated reference. Thereby, the reference refers to a particular revision of the standard and not automatically to the latest valid revision.

6. In order to further promote the wide knowledge and application of safety tests for lithium batteries, we propose to consider addition of the following or similar wording to Special provisions 188, paragraph (c) and 230, paragraph (a) of chapter 3.3.

7. "Lithium batteries that have been tested according to IEC 62281:2004 and have passed the tests are considered to fulfill these requirements."
