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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-fourth session
Geneva, December 1-9, 2008
Item 7 of the provisional agenda

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

Revision of section 7.1.3.2.3

Transmitted by the expert from Australia¹

SCOPE

This proposal recommends amendments to section 7.1.3.2.3 regarding the stowage of Class 1 dangerous goods with other classes.

REFERENCE

UN/SCETDG/32/INF.22 - (Australia) Revision of section 7.1.3.2.3
ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2008/61 - (Australia) Revision of section 7.1.3.2.3
ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/66 - Report of the 33rd session of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

¹ 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.10/34, para. 14).

Introduction

1. The 15th edition of the UN Model Regulations altered the segregation requirements for the transport of Class 1 goods with other classes of goods, to allow blasting explosive (except UN 0083 type C) to be stowed with ammonium nitrate (1942 and 2067), alkali metal nitrates (e.g. UN 1486) and alkaline earth metal nitrates (e.g. UN 1454).
2. In our previous submission (-C.3/2008/61 at the 33rd meeting) Australia supported this change and suggested some amendments to better define the scope of nitrate compounds covered by this statement. In response, some experts considered that the list of alkali metal and alkaline earth metal nitrates proposed by the expert from Australia was not comprehensive, and others questioned the need for such a list. The expert from Australia withdrew the proposal and indicated that we would consider the comments and the need for a further submission. (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/66, para. 120).
3. Australia remains strongly of the view that additional clarification is essential to facilitate the application of this section. Many of those required to apply this section (consignors, carriers, freight forwarders, packers of cargo transport units (CTU) ships officers, cargo planners, etc) cannot be expected to have a detailed level of chemical knowledge of the substances classified as alkali metal nitrates and alkaline earth metal nitrates. Consequently, Australia recommends that the UN Model Regulations should specify the substances permitted, by listing the relevant substances in a note. The proposed note lists all alkali metal nitrates and alkaline earth metal nitrates, with the exception of francium and radium, as these two elements are highly radioactive and it is not appropriate that they be stowed and transported with blasting explosives.
4. Australia agrees with comments made at the previous meeting that rubidium nitrate should be included in any comprehensive list of the alkali metals and alkaline earth metals.
5. Australia also recommends that the index of the Model Regulations be amended to include rubidium nitrate with a reference to UN 1477.

Recommendations

6. The expert from Australia recommends section 7.1.3.2.3 be amended to read:

“Blasting explosives (except UN 0083 Explosive, blasting, type C) may be transported together with ammonium nitrate (UN Nos. 1942 and 2067) and alkali metal nitrates and alkaline earth metal nitrates provided the aggregate is treated as blasting explosives under Class 1 for the purposes of placarding, segregation, stowage and maximum permissible load.

NOTE: *Alkali metal nitrates include caesium nitrate (UN 1451), lithium nitrate (UN 2722), potassium nitrate (UN 1486), rubidium nitrate (shipped as UN 1477) and sodium nitrate (UN 1498). Alkaline earth metal nitrates include barium nitrate (UN 1446), beryllium nitrate (UN 2464), calcium nitrate (UN 1454), magnesium nitrate (UN 1474) and strontium nitrate (UN 1507).”*

7. The expert from Australia further recommends the alphabetic index of substances and articles be amended to include the following entry:

Name and description	Class	UN No.
Rubidium nitrate, see	5.1	1477
