

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, 1-9 December 2008
Item 8 of the provisional agenda

GLOBAL HARMONIZATION OF TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS REGULATIONS WITH THE UN MODEL REGULATIONS

Outcome of the 13th Session of the IMO Dangerous goods, Solid Cargoes and Containers (DSC) Sub-Committee meeting (London, 22-26 September 2008)

Transmitted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Introduction

1. The 13th Session of the IMO Dangerous goods, Solid Cargoes and Containers (DSC) Sub-Committee meeting was held in London from the 22 to 26 September 2008. The outcomes of this meeting, relevant to the work of the Sub-Committee, are stated below.

Personnel who have not yet received the required training

2. DSC 13 recalled that DSC 12, having considered the issue of non-compliant dangerous goods being presented for carriage by sea agreed, in principle, that shore side staff should undergo appropriate training if they were to be applying the provisions of the IMDG Code, noted that a number of Member Governments had already mandated such training requirements in their national regulations and forwarded the issue to the its Editorial and Technical Group for finalization.

3. DSC 13, in considering the report of the intersessional Editorial and Technical Group meeting, which met from 24 to 28 September 2007, concurred with the view of the group that for personnel who have not yet received the required training companies should ensure that they may only perform functions under the direct supervision of a trained person and requested the Secretariat to inform the UNSCOE TDG accordingly.

Methyle Ethyle Ketone Peroxide fire and subsequent explosion

4. DSC 13, having considered a document by the Islamic Republic of Iran reporting on a fire and subsequent explosion in a container stuffed with 15 tonnes of Methyle Ethyle Ketone Peroxide, took decisions as follows:

- (a) Agreed to the importance of underscoring the need to comply with the requirements of the IMDG Code;
- (b) Supported, in principle, indicating in column (17) of the dangerous goods list of the IMDG Code, that the fume stemming from Methyl Ethyl Ketone Peroxide (MEKP) is poisonous and agreed to forward the proposal to the Editorial and Technical Group for finalization and inclusion in the draft amendment 35-10 to the IMDG Code; and
- (c) Having considered the need to carry these types of cargoes in refrigerated containers when destined for ports with relatively high temperature and humidity, agreed that further information was required and the matter was multimodal in nature and therefore should also be considered at the UNSCOE level and, in this context, requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to submit revised proposals to DSC 14 and the Secretariat to advise the UNSCOE of the outcome of its consideration.

Fire protection of cargo in containers

5. DSC 13 concerning fire protection of cargoes in containers, noted the ongoing work at the UNSCOE on the transport of dangerous goods in the context of multimodal transport. Noting that the issue was an important one and that it was in the work programme of the FP Sub-Committee in the context of stowage of containers, segregation from sources of heat and fire-fighting systems on board ships, DSC 13 invited interested delegations to submit proposals, for solutions to the issue of fires in containers, to the FP Sub-Committee for consideration.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

6. The Sub-Committee is invited to note the information provided and to take action as appropriate.
