

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 Globally Harmonized
System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

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Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Hazard communication issues

Fire extinguishers

Transmitted by the expert from Argentina

Background

1. By definition, “gases under pressure” are gases which are contained in a receptacle at a pressure of 200 kPa (gauge) or more, or which are liquefied or liquefied and refrigerated (see Chapter 2.5).
2. Fire extinguishers are metal containers with an extinguishing agent and a propellant gas but they are not considered to be either aerosols or cylinders under pressure (except the containers of carbon dioxide), where the gas is the extinguishing agent. All of them however are under a pressure between 4 and 15 times greater than 200kPa.
3. The UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations include fire extinguishers into Class or Division 2.2, with the corresponding pictogram.
4. The fire extinguishers have different extinguishing agents and propellant gases as shown in the following table:

Extinguishing agent	Propellant	Working pressure (kPa)
Water	Nitrogen or Air	1400
Water + AFFF(1) or Water + AR-AFFF (2)	Nitrogen or Air	1400
Powder ABC (3)	Dry Nitrogen	1400
Powder (Fires Class D) (4)	Dry Nitrogen	1400
Carbon dioxide	The same gas (CO ₂)	15000
HCFC 123 (5)	Argon or Nitrogen	800
Potassium acetate (Solution)	Nitrogen or Air	800

(1) *AFFF: Aqueous Film Forming Foam*

(2) *AR-AFFF Alcohol Resistant – Aqueous Film Forming Foam*

(3) *Monoammonium Phosphate + other ammonium salts + additives*

- (4) *Sodium Chloride, Graphite, others*
- (5) *Dichlorotrifluoroethane*

Proposal

Add a note under table 2.5.1 to read as follows:

“NOTE: Fire extinguishers fall within the scope of this chapter and should be classified in accordance with the criteria in table 2.5.1 and be labelled with the related hazard communication elements in table 2.5.2.”
