

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

1 September 2011

Twenty-second session

Geneva, 7 (p.m) – 9 December 2011

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. Pressurized gas cylinders have steel walls with a thickness ranging between 5.4 mm and 8.0 mm.
3. Fire extinguishers have a wall of steel or aluminium with a thickness of 1.5 mm and 2.7 mm (except for carbon dioxide extinguishers that have a steel wall of 5.4 mm) and this makes them more fragile to shocks or punctures than pressurized gas cylinders.
4. The exposure to temperatures higher than 54°C (130°F) can significantly increase the internal pressure with hazard of explosion.
5. A blow can deform or pierce the wall of the fire extinguisher and can cause an explosion.
6. The fall of a fire extinguisher can cause rupture of the valve (unprotected) and can be projected against persons or things and can produce injury or damage.

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.”.