

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

30 May 2012

Forty-first session

Geneva, 25 June – 4 July 2012

Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda

Listing, classification and packing: miscellaneous

Proposed amendment to Special provision 242

Transmitted by the expert from South Africa

Background

1. In South Africa Transnet Freight Rail (TFR) is involved in the transport of large quantities of Sulfur on its rail network. These quantities are estimated at 350 000 ton per year and are mainly transported from the port of Richards Bay and an inland source at Secunda to Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

2. The Transport of Dangerous Goods Model Regulations contains a Special Provision 242, which exempts Sulfur from compliance to the Model Regulations when this product is formed into a specific shape (e.g granules). TFR is currently experiencing problems with this Special Provision, since the product offered for transport in granular form changes its physical form and gets pulverized to sulfur powder during transportation. The result is a product that should comply with the Model Regulations requirements. The attached annex indicates pictures of incidences where fires started due to granular product being converted to powder during transportation and the powdered form not being transported in accordance with the Model Regulations requirements.

3. The Special Provision applicable to granulated sulfur is currently as follows: SP 242: Sulfur is considered non-dangerous for transport when it has been formed into a specific shape (for example, prills granules, pastilles or flakes).

Proposal

4. We propose amendment to SP 242 to read as follows:

Option 1. SP 242: Sulfur is considered non-dangerous for transport when it has been formed into a specific shape (for example, prills granules, pastilles or flakes), provided that such shape does not change to powder during transport.

or

Option2. Sulfur is considered non-dangerous for transport when it has been formed into a specific shape (for example, prills granules, pastilles or flakes); provided that this shape is maintained throughout the transport operation.

Annex

Pictures of incidences of fires during transport of Sulfur



