



**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****Forty-fourth session**

Geneva, 25 November – 4 December 2013

Item 11 of the provisional agenda

Other business**Availability of information on UN approved packagings****Submitted by the expert from Belgium¹****Background**

1. The United Nations packaging instructions and packaging performance and testing requirements form one of the backbones of the dangerous goods transport regulations for packaged goods. Use of non-authorised packagings often leads to serious transport risks and is regarded in enforcement regulations as one of the highest level infringements.
2. For a number of years, Belgian inspection officers have become more and more aware of irregularities or straightforward forgery regarding the certification of “UN” packagings containing dangerous goods, notably goods passing through container terminals handling large volumes of goods. In many cases this also became apparent during an investigation following an incident.
3. Especially in current multimodal transport on a global scale, it is challenging for national inspection bodies to obtain the necessary information regarding the approval of “UN” packagings, test reports or certificates for “UN” packagings. Additionally, the information obtained through various channels is not always equally reliable. For that reason, certain countries have already taken initiative to make information regarding certificates for “UN” packagings easily publicly available.

¹ In accordance with the programme of work of the Sub-Committee for 2013–2014 approved by the Committee at its sixth session (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/84, para. 86 and ST/SG/AC.10/40, para. 14).

Proposal

4. The Sub-Committee is invited to discuss the exchange or availability of information regarding UN packaging certificates. As possible thought-starter and focus for the discussion it could be considered to include additional text in paragraph 17 “Compliance assurance” of the basic principles of the Orange Book. This additional text would stress the principle that competent authorities should make necessary information for the verification of compliance readily available to other competent authorities and if possible (e.g. when no personal or confidential information is present) publicly available. A practical example of implementing this principle would be to have every country applying the Orange Book create a secure national website listing all of the valid issued approval numbers for “UN” packagings, linked to a telephone number and/or e-mail address where additional information can be obtained.

5. The experts are also invited to discuss what type of information would be best shared or made available to which parties (e.g. secured website only for competent authorities, publicly,...) and what the most appropriate way would be to achieve this.

6. Depending on the outcome of the discussion, the expert from Belgium is willing to work together with other interested parties to take this work forward in the future.

Justification

7. The availability of easily accessible and correct information to verify conformity with the regulations would enhance safety through reduction of fraud, facilitate enforcement and reduce inspection and investigation time and effort.
