



**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-third session**

Geneva, 24–28 June 2013

Item 2 (f) of the provisional agenda

Explosives and related matters: miscellaneous**Default list for classification of Class 1 Products other than
fireworks****Transmitted by the Sporting Arms & Ammunition Manufacturers'
Institute (SAAMI)¹****Introduction**

1. Explosives are assigned to hazard divisions 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, and 1.4 on the basis of test data derived from Test Series 6. However, an alternative system exists for fireworks which may be assigned a classification based on a default list without testing. This is based on the large range and volume of products as opposed to the availability of test facilities.
2. SAAMI wishes to explore the possibility of expanding the default list system as appropriate to Class 1 other than fireworks. This would apply to products whose testing has become repetitive.
3. No text proposal is made in this working paper. Based on the level of interest, SAAMI may return with formal proposals to amend the Model Regulations.

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

Background

4. A large volume of fireworks are approved each year for transport. The majority of these approvals apply to minor variations of established types which do not merit full evaluation in Test Series 6. The Model Regulations Section 2.1.3.5.2 states:

“Assignment of fireworks to UN Nos. 0333, 0334, 0335 or 0336 may be made on the basis of analogy, without the need for Test Series 6 testing, in accordance with the default fireworks classification table in 2.1.3.5.5. Such assignment shall be made with the agreement of the competent authority. Items not specified in the table shall be classified on the basis of test data derived from Test Series 6.”

5. Section 2.1.3.5.4 limits these classifications to fireworks packed in 4G fibreboard boxes.

6. A provision is made to expand the default list to other fireworks specifications on the basis of full test data submitted to the United Nations Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods for consideration (Section 2.1.3.5.2 Note 1). Note 2 provides for updates to the list when competent authorities obtain test results which validate or contradict the classification of fireworks by the default list.

Discussion

7. A similar situation to fireworks exists for other Class 1 products. Many explosives are based on proven designs which have been well characterized by testing over a period of decades. A robust body of knowledge exists for these products in a variety of scenarios including and exceeding transport.

8. No default list exists for these products. The data derived by testing of these products has become redundant. While expert authorities may use their experience to waive testing on well characterized products, this is not clarified in the Model Regulations for competent authorities with less experience. A default list would provide a well defined approach for authorities who do not have a wealth of prior experience and facilitate capacity building exercises for those who wish to harmonize with the United Nations system.

9. SAAMI wishes to explore the level of interest of authorities and industry in the establishment of a default list. An equivalent level of safety can be maintained to fireworks for products manufactured by other industries such as blasting, oil well perforation and small arms ammunition and components. Suitable parameters should be discussed, which might include chemical formulation, maximum weights, packaging types, etc.

10. A default list could reduce government expenditures and offer relief to industry without reducing safety.
