

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

27 November 2014

Forty-sixth session

Geneva, 1 – 9 December 2014

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

New proposals for amendments to the Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Classification in Division 4.3

Transmitted by the International Air Transport Association (IATA)

Introduction

1. An issue has been raised with respect to a slight inconsistency in the language in paragraph 2.4.4.2 (b) related to the criteria for assignment of a substance to Division 4.3, which states that a substance shall be classified in Division 4.3 if the evolution of gas is at a rate **greater than** 1 litre per kilogram of substance per hour material compared to paragraph 2.4.4.3.3 which determines assignment to packing group III, which applies where the maximum rate of evolution of flammable gas is **equal to or greater** than 1 litre per kilogram of substance per hour.
2. The provisions of the Manual of Tests and Criteria, paragraph 33.4.1.4.4.1 (b) regarding classification of Division 4.3 and paragraph 33.4.1.4.4.4 regarding assignment to packing group III are both aligned to paragraph 2.4.4.2 (b) in the Model regulations in applying the criteria where the evolution of flammable gas is **greater than** 1 litre per kilogram of substance per hour.
3. However, Table 2.12.1, category 3 in the GHS that sets out the criteria for substances and mixtures which, in contact with water, emit flammable gases states “maximum rate of evolution of flammable gas is **equal to or greater** than 1 litre per kilogram of substance per hour”.
4. Considering the language in the Manual of Tests and Criteria and the wording of 2.4.4.1 (b) it is suggested that the criteria for classification in Division 4.3 and assignment to packing group III should be where the evolution of flammable gas is **greater than** 1 litre per kilogram of substance per hour.
5. It is proposed therefor to modify the wording of paragraph 2.4.4.3.3 to align to this. The Subcommittee is also invited to advise the GHS Subcommittee of this minor amendment such that Table 2.12.1 can be amended accordingly.

Proposal

6. Amend paragraph 2.4.4.3.3 as follows:

2.4.4.3.3 Packing group III shall be assigned to any substance which reacts slowly with water at ambient temperatures such that the maximum rate of evolution of flammable gas is ~~equal to or~~ greater than 1 litre per kilogram of substance per hour, and which does not meet the criteria for packing groups I or II.