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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

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Item 4 (c) of the provisional agenda Electric storage systems:
Transport provisions

Scope of exemption 1.1.1.2

Transmitted by the expert from Switzerland*

Summary

Executive summary: The exemption to the Regulations under 1.1.1.2 should be clarified and extended to cover equipment needed during transport but which is not part of the means of transport, such as laptop computers, clocks, radios, guidance systems (GPS) or container or packaging tracking devices

Action to be taken: Amend 1.1.1.2

Reference documents:

Introduction

1. According to Note 3 to 1.1.1.2, the exemption under 1.1.1.2 (a) is only applicable to the means of transport performing the transport operation. The text refers to “dangerous goods that are required for the operation of its specialized equipment during transport”, but gives only one example of specialized equipment, that of refrigeration units. It could also include liquid or gaseous fuel systems and electric energy storage and production systems such as lithium batteries, wet cells and batteries, electrical and asymmetric capacitors, metal hydride storage systems and fuel cells. Yet none of these electrical energy sources are referred to in the text of 1.1.1.2, which means that its scope remains subject to interpretation.

* In accordance with the programme of work of the Sub-Committee for the biennium 2017-2018 approved by the Committee at its eighth session (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/100, para. 98 and ST/SG/AC.10/44, para. 14).



2. Moreover, other devices such as laptops, clocks, radios, guidance systems (GPS) or the type of container tracking devices containing lithium batteries referred to in document ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2016/56, while not strictly speaking part of the means of transport, are nonetheless used during transport yet do not constitute dangerous goods intended to be delivered at destination.

3. In order to take account of equipment of this type that is used during transport, and to make the scope of 1.1.1.2 clearer, we propose the following amendments to the text.

Proposal

4. Amend 1.1.1.2. as follows (new text in bold and underlined, deleted text in strikethrough):

“1.1.1.2 These Regulations do not apply to the transport of:

(a) Dangerous goods that are required for the propulsion of the means of transport or the operation of its specialized equipment during transport (e.g. refrigeration units **or electric energy storage and production systems such as lithium batteries, wet cells and batteries, electrical and asymmetric capacitors, metal hydride storage systems and fuel cells**) or are required in accordance with the operating regulations (e.g. fire extinguishers);

(b) Electric energy storage and production systems (e.g. lithium batteries, wet cells and batteries, electrical and asymmetric capacitors, metal hydride storage systems and fuel cells) contained in a device used or intended for use during transport (e.g. a laptop computer, or container or packaging tracking devices) for the purpose of operating that device.

~~(b)~~ Dangerous goods, packaged for retail sale, that are carried by individuals for their own use.

NOTE 1: Specific modal provisions for the transport of dangerous goods as well as derogations from these general requirements can be found in the modal regulations.

2. Certain special provisions of Chapter 3.3 also indicate substances and articles which are not subject to these Regulations.

3. 1.1.1.2 (a) above is only applicable to the means of transport performing the transport operation.”
