



**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****Fifty-fourth session**

Geneva, 26 November-4 December 2018

Item 2 (f) of the provisional agenda

**Recommendations made by the Sub-Committee on its fifty-first,
fifty-second and fifty-third sessions and pending issues:
miscellaneous pending issues****Informal working group on Fibre-reinforced plastics (FRP)
portable tanks****Transmitted by the Australian Explosives Industry and Safety Group
(AEISG)*****Introduction**

1. At its fifty-second session (December 2017) in response to a proposal in document ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2017/40, the Sub-Committee established an intersessional informal working group to: “Develop requirements for the construction, approval, inspection, and use of fibre reinforced plastics portable tanks...” (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/104, para 80-81).
2. The scope of the informal working group includes consideration of the suitability of FRP tanks for different classes of dangerous goods.
3. The informal working group plans to meet again on 26-27 November 2018 and the chairman has indicated that: “The work will utilize the format provided in ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2017/40 as its baseline document to work from as amended to account for the utilization of a new chapter 6.9 with a 6.9.1 Application and general provisions and 6.9.2 Provisions for the design, construction, inspection and testing of portable tanks with shells made of Fibre Reinforced Plastics (FRP) materials intended for the transport of substances of classes 3, 5.1, 6.1, 6.2, 8 and 9”.

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

4. AEISG has participated in the informal working group and is concerned that the scope of the work at this stage excludes consideration of Class 1 dangerous goods despite the fact that the current provisions for portable tanks (6.7.2 of the Model Regulations) include Class 1.

Discussion

5. It is the opinion of AEISG that tanks made of FRP should not be unnecessarily excluded from use to transport explosives and hence there is no reason that the scope of the new chapter 6.9 should not include Class 1.

6. There is a body of experience already in existence in this area as several national and regional competent authorities are already insisting that related materials such as UN3375, AMMONIUM NITRATE EMULSION, SUSPENSION or GEL be transported in “soft” tanks, which include FRP.

Proposal

7. AEISG proposes that the deliberations of the FRP tanks informal working group in November 2018 and through the next biennium, should include consideration of Class 1 dangerous goods.
