



## 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-fifth session

Geneva, 1–5 July 2019

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

#### Listing, classification and packing

### Scope of 4.1.2.2

#### Transmitted by the expert from Switzerland\*

##### *Summary*

**Executive summary:** Clarify the scope of 4.1.2.2 for non-metal intermediate bulk containers (IBCs) to enable their carriage for the disposal or recycling of the dangerous goods they contain.

**Action to be taken:** Amend the text of 4.1.2.2.

**Related documents:**

### Introduction

1. Section 4.1.2.2 sets out the conditions in which an IBC may be carried after the date of expiry of the last periodic test or inspection. In principle, it applies to metal and to rigid plastics or composite IBCs. However, 4.1.1.15 limits the period of use of non-metal IBCs to five years. As a result, these two categories of IBCs referred to in 4.1.2.2, which are non-metal, cannot benefit from the possibility provided in 4.1.2.2 of carriage after the period of use; once the five years lapse, there is no periodic test or inspection for them. This can be seen from the wording of 4.1.2.2 (b), which is apparently only applicable if the validity of the last test or inspection has expired. For non-metal IBCs, the period of validity is not set solely by the last test or inspection; it is also set by the provision in 4.1.1.15.

2. Section 4.1.2.2 (a) authorizes carriage for purposes of performing the required test or inspection prior to refilling. In the case of non-metal IBCs, it is intended only for the case of the intermediate inspection required after two and a half years in 6.5.4.4.1. This is due to the

\* In accordance with the programme of work of the Sub-Committee for the biennium 2019–2020 approved by the Committee at its ninth session (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/108, para. 141, and ST/SG/AC.10/46, para. 14).



fact that, in principle, there is no provision for a test or inspection after the five years of use provided for in 4.1.1.15, and once the five year period has lapsed, there is no provision for filling after inspection.

3. Section 4.1.2.2 (b), which allows carriage beyond the date of expiry of the last periodic test or inspection, is apparently not applicable to non-metal IBCs whose period of use has lapsed; once the period lapses, there are no provisions for a test or inspection. They therefore cannot be transported after the period of use, even for disposal or recycling of their contents. The easing of restrictions under 4.1.2.2 is not intended for non-metal IBCs whose period of use lapses.

4. We believe that this is an anomaly. It is particularly troublesome because it means that dangerous goods contained in non-metal IBCs whose validity dates have passed cannot be recycled or disposed of without being transferred to other IBCs, or without a waiver granted by the competent authority. This unnecessarily complicates their carriage to waste treatment centres.

5. The question arises as to whether this apparent anomaly is intentional, as in principle, the introductory text of 4.1.2.2 is also applicable to non-metal IBCs.

6. If, in the opinion of the experts, this is an anomaly, we propose amending 4.1.2.2.

## Proposal

7. Amend 4.1.2.2 as follows (added text **underlined in bold**; deleted text in ~~strikethrough~~):

“ 4.1.2.2 Every metal, rigid plastics and composite IBC, shall be inspected and tested, as relevant, in accordance with 6.5.4.4 or 6.5.4.5:

- before it is put into service;
- thereafter at intervals not exceeding two and a half and five years, as appropriate;
- after the repair or remanufacture, before it is re-used for carriage.

An IBC shall not be filled and offered for carriage after the date of expiry of the last periodic test or inspection. However, an IBC filled prior to the date of expiry of the last periodic test or inspection may be carried for a period not to exceed three months beyond the date of expiry of the last periodic test or inspection. In addition, an IBC may be carried after the date of expiry of **the period of use accepted in accordance with 4.1.1.15 or of** the last periodic test or inspection:

(a) after emptying but before cleaning, for purposes of performing the required test or inspection prior to refilling; and

(b) unless otherwise approved by the competent authority, for a period not to exceed six months beyond the date of expiry **of the period of use accepted in accordance with 4.1.1.15 or** of the last periodic test or inspection in order to allow the return of dangerous goods or residues for proper disposal or recycling.

*NOTE: For the particulars in the transport document, see 5.4.1.1.11.”*