

Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

10 December 2019

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Fifty-sixth session,

Geneva, 4-10 December 2019

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Listing, classification and packing

Outcomes of lunchtime work group meeting on classification of cobalt dihydroxide powder and similar compounds

Transmitted by the Responsible Packaging Management Association of Southern Africa (RPMASA)

Introduction

1. RPMASA wishes to thank all the *participants in the lunchtime meeting for their support and spirit of cooperation to progress a solution* See annex: List of participants.
2. Copies of amended table to amend the proposed specific UN number 35XX and generic 35XY N.O.S with PGI, PGII and PGIII were handed out.
3. RPMASA informed that a second manufacturer had now made the new design type FIBC which had passed in-house testing to PGI and would be submitted to the Belgium CA soon for test.
4. Agenda items followed the main comments received from the Plenary discussion as follows:
 - (i) Finland and Belgium
 - (ii) France
 - (iii) Germany
 - (iv) Netherlands
 - (v) USA
 - (vi) Canada

Discussion

5. Finland and Belgium informed they supported the proposals and Belgium confirmed that they were progressing a multilateral agreement in the EU for use of the new design type FIBC which had passed the PGI test with no dust.
6. France advised that they supported the new Specific UN number and will sign the Multilateral Agreement but had reservations regarding the N.O.S proposal. The expert also asked to make clear what happens when the cobalt dihydroxide material contains less than 10% respirable particles and proposed to include this in a note to state that - cobalt dihydroxide

materials containing <10% respirable particles falls outside this Classification for Transport and remains UN3077 Class9 PGIII.

7. Germany supported the need to find a solution but was reluctant to support a new N.O.S as thought that could lead to a proliferation of materials using such a number

8. Netherlands asked what was the definition of toxic by inhalation as this is usually associated with liquids and vapours and unusual for toxic by inhalation solid (powder) when not toxic by ingestion or dermally. They had similar reservations regarding a new generic UN number N.O.S. and said that for the proposed new UN number Class 6.1 and PGI it should be made clear that only the new design type FIBC's could be used that had passed the PGI test with CA approval, and that SP 354 should apply.

9. Belgium confirmed that they had tested and approved this new design type bag to PGI.

10. USA said that they recognised a solution was urgent to keep the supply chain open as the demand for Cobalt dihydroxide was growing globally, and this was a very unique situation that the material had tested positive for Toxic by inhalation, yet was not toxic for ingestion or dermal, and had no other physical, transport hazards! They supported the use of a new specific UN number for Cobalt dihydroxide but wanted to discuss the proposed N.O.S. for mixtures.

11. The USA expert asked the group to consider the use of one UN Number for both pure and mixtures, or the proposed specific UN35XX COBALT DIHYDROXIDE POWDER entry, plus a generic entry UN 35XY for COBALT DIHYDROXIDE POWDER, MIXTURES for all three Packing groups to cater for different possibilities of mixtures of varying composition that do not meet PGI criteria. SP354 which states that this substance is toxic by inhalation to be applied to both PGI entries - see table. He further informed that this was not precedent setting for pure substance and Mixtures, as this could be found with other entries such as UN 1580 CHLOROPICRIN Class 6.1 PGI and UN 1583 CHLOROPICRIN MIXTURE N.O.S. with PG I, II and III.

12. Canada informed that they had not been in favour of 2 new entries, especially the generic N.O.S. but that the USA proposal could provide a good solution.

13. Austria and several other experts present expressed support that this would provide a good solution to address this unique challenge.

Proposed way forward

14. Belgium confirmed that they are progressing their proposed Multilateral Agreement.

15. It was questioned whether there is or not a need to include provision for PGII and PGIII for mixtures for the requested new number UN 35XX, or if perhaps a new specific UN 35XY COBALT DIHYDROXIDE MIXTURES POWDER, containing > than 10% respirable particles would be more appropriate – see table?

16. It was proposed to capture a new entry into the Guiding Principles to inform future issues related to this type of unique situation through increasing harmonisation with the GHS. This, as well as the new liner will be discussed and developed with the Intersessional working group as deemed necessary for the Model Regulations.

17. RPMASA to provide an INF to capture the discussion, inform the rest of the Sub-Committee of this proposed solution and to capture in the report.

18. It was also proposed that RPMASA could prepare a formal document after further consultation with the Intersessional Working group, to present to the July session of the Sub-Committee for approval.

See amended table below

	Name and description	Class or division	Subsidiary risk	UN packing group	Special provisions	Limited & excepted quantities		Packagings and IBCs		Portable tanks and bulk containers	
								Packing instruction	Special packing provisions	Instructions	Special provisions
35XX	COBALT DIHYDROXIDE POWDER containing > than 10% respirable particles	6.1		I	354	0	E5	P002 IBC07	B3 BX	T6	TP33
35XY	COBALT DIHYDROXIDE POWDER MIXTURES containing > than 10% respirable particles	6.1		I	354	0	E5	P002 IBC07	B3 BX	T6	TP33
35XY	COBALT DIHYDROXIDE POWDER MIXTURES containing > than 10% respirable particles	6.1		II	354	0		P002 IBC08	B3	T3	TP33
35XY	COBALT DIHYDROXIDE POWDER MIXTURES containing > than 10% respirable particles	6.1		III	223	0		P002 IBC08	B3	T1	TP33

BX This material may be transported in Flexible IBC's of 13H3 or 13H4 with liners which have the new design features of double layer spouts for filling and bottom emptying, with closing ties to prevent egress of dust, and which have passed the Competent Authority test for PGI.

Annex

List of participants in the lunchtime discussion held on 5 December 2019 and interested parties

RPMASA requests if anyone would like to be added to this list in order to participate in future (after the Christmas break) to kindly contact on liz@rpmasa.org.za

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