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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**

**Fifty-seventh session**

Geneva, 30 November-8 December 2020  
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**Listing, classification and packing**

Amendment of Special Provision 172 and 290 of Chapter 3.3

Transmitted by the expert from Germany[[1]](#footnote-2)

Introduction

1. The Special Provisions (SP) 172 and 290 of Chapter 3.3 deal with “radioactive material”, which simultaneously has other dangerous properties (subsidiary hazards) like flammable or toxic.

2. Regarding the transport of substances with subsidiary hazards in which the radioactive material and another material with other dangerous properties are separately present, the provisions for mixed packing apply (5.1.4). In this case SP 290, and SP 172 respectively, are not applicable.

3. For items like instruments or articles in which two substances with different hazardous properties are inserted, for example lamps with thoriated filaments and mercury, neither the provisions for mixed packing nor SP 290 are applicable.

4. In the case of such lamps, the radioactive material as the primary hazard and a class 8 (6.1) substance are assembled together in an article, and thus are not subject to the definition of radioactive material with subsidiary hazards. Neither of the provisions for mixed packing are applicable, because a separation of the substances is not possible.

5. A further problem exists, if the above mentioned items, in which two substances with different hazardous properties are implemented, contain lithium batteries.

Examples

* A device with a built-in memory and lithium battery as backup supply;
* A lithium battery as support supply on a printed circuit board installed in a device;
* A lithium battery in the electronic system of a measuring device with an integrated test source.

6. By analogy with the respective provisions for UN 3537 to UN 3548 in 2.0.5.2 containing lithium batteries should have no consequence to the classification of these items but:

- the test requirements of the UN Manual of Tests and Criteria, part III, sub-section 38.3 should apply unless they are pre-production prototypes or part of a small production run;

- should be additionally marked/labelled, respectively, as applicable to the different modes of transport as follows:

(a) marked with the Lithium Battery Mark, if the cells/batteries are within the limits of SP 188 or;

(b) labelled with dangerous goods label 9A, if the cells/batteries exceed the limits of SP 188.

7. Obviously, solutions are necessary to allow a regulated transport of the above mentioned items. Therefore, the following amendment is proposed:

Proposal

8. At the end of SP 172 and 290 of Chapter 3.3, add a new paragraph (new text is underlined) to read:

“The requirements of sub-paragraphs (a) to (d) apply also to articles containing radioactive material and other dangerous goods.

Articles transported under this entry may in addition contain batteries. Lithium batteries that are integral to the article shall be of a type proven to meet the testing requirements of the Manual Tests and Criteria, part III, subsection 38.3, except if otherwise specified by these Regulations (e.g. for pre-production prototype articles containing lithium batteries or for a small production run, consisting of not more than 100 such articles).

If the article contains one or more lithium batteries with, for lithium metal batteries, an aggregate lithium content of 2 g or less, and for lithium ion batteries, a Watt-hour rating of 100 Wh or less, the lithium battery mark (Figure 5.2.5) shall be affixed to the package or unpackaged article. If the article contains one or more lithium batteries with, for lithium metal batteries, an aggregate lithium content of more than 2 g and for lithium ion batteries, a Watt-hour rating of more than 100 Wh, the lithium battery label (5.2.2.1.2 No. 9A) shall be affixed to the package or unpackaged article.”

1. 2020 (A/74/6 (Sect.20) and Supplementary, Subprogramme 2). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)