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Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

Fifty-sixth session

Geneva, 21–22 October 2013

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

Revision of the IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines for packing of intermodal transport units (cargo transport units)

Draft IMO/ILO/UNECE Code of Practice for packing of cargo transport units (draft CTU Code)

Outcome of the eighteenth session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Dangerous Goods, Solid Cargoes and Containers

Note by the secretariat

I. Consideration of the draft CTU Code

1. At its third session in October 2012, the Group of Experts for the revision of the IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines for packing of cargo transport units agreed on the final version of the draft CTU Code.
2. According to a decision taken by the Group of Experts (Informal document EG GPC No. 24 (2012), para. 30), the draft CTU Code was submitted to the IMO Sub-Committee on Dangerous Goods, Solid Cargoes and Containers (DSC) for consideration at its eighteenth session (16 to 20 September 2013).
3. DSC discussed the draft CTU Code (document DSC 18/8) and related documents (DSC 18/8/1, DSC 18/8/2, DSC 18/INF.4 and DSC 18/INF.7)¹ briefly in plenary and transmitted it to its Working Group on Container Safety for detailed consideration.
4. The Working Group on Container Safety made several recommendations that were endorsed by DSC on its last session day.

II. Recommendations made by DSC

5. In considering methods to reduce the volume of the draft CTU Code, DSC agreed that it should be user-friendly (e.g. colour indexed) and divided in three parts, as follows:

¹ All relevant documents for DSC 18 are downloadable from the Group of Experts' webpage: www.unece.org/trans/wp24/guidelinespackingctus/intro.html

- main body;
 - annexes, which are referenced in the main body; and
 - appendices, containing informative material
6. DSC also agreed that the Group of Experts should identify the referenced annexes and informative material and place them accordingly.
7. DSC recommended that the CTU Code should be available on the web, free of charge, for ease of dissemination. In order to facilitate the dissemination of the CTU Code, the secretariats of the three organizations should consider creating a website dedicated to the packing of cargo transport units.
8. In this connection, the UNECE secretariat informed DSC that they could check the possibility of creating such website and report to the Group of Experts on this matter.
9. In addition, DSC adopted a set of recommendations, as presented in annex 4 to the report of the Working Group on Container Safety², and which consisted in proposals for amendments to the draft CTU Code, for referral to the next session of the Group of Experts.
10. Bearing in mind that this set of recommendations was not an extensive list of proposed amendments to the draft CTU Code, DSC encouraged member States and international organizations to submit further comments and proposals directly to the UNECE secretariat by 8 October 2013, for consideration at the fourth session of the Group of Experts.
11. In considering how best to finalize the Code, DSC agreed that the draft CTU Code, after finalization by the Group of Experts at its fourth session, should be submitted directly to the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 93, May 2014) for approval. DSC noted that the draft CTU Code would also be submitted to the UNECE Inland Transport Committee and the ILO Governing Body for endorsement.

III. Follow-up

12. In view of the considerable amount of work to achieve, the secretariats of the three organizations have agreed to extend the fourth session of the Group of Experts by one day. The session will take place from 4 to 6 November 2013³.
13. As suggested in document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2013/2, the Working Party may wish to propose modifications and/or amendments to the draft CTU Code and provide guidance on the finalization of the CTU Code.
14. The Working Party may also wish to propose further actions to be taken by the UNECE secretariat relating to the creation of a website dedicated to the packing of cargo transport units.

² Document DSC 18/WP.3 available at www.unece.org/trans/wp24/guidelinespackingctus/intro.html

³ The provisional agenda and working documents will be made available on the UNECE website (www.unece.org/trans/wp24/guidelinespackingctus/session_4.html).