

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 Globally Harmonized
System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

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Item 2 (i) of the provisional agenda

Work on the Globally Harmonized System (GHS): other matters

Amendment to Chapter 2.17 desensitized explosives

Transmitted by the expert from Germany

1. When reviewing Chapter 2.17 “Desensitized explosives” in the course of the amendments as proposed in working document ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2021/6, the expert from Germany noted that an amendment concerning an additional prerequisite for classification as desensitized explosives should be included in Chapter 2.17. This amendment is a separate issue and is not meant to affect the decision regarding the proposal in ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2021/6.
2. Explosives that are diluted have to fulfil some conditions in order to classify them as desensitized explosives in the sense of Chapter 2.17. These conditions are mentioned in paragraph 2.17.1.1 and in the criteria in paragraph 2.17.2.1 and can also be found in the decision logic.
3. Likewise, explosives that are too sensitive according to test series 3 (as mentioned in footnote 1 in 2.17.1.1) should be diluted at least such that they are no longer too sensitive according to test series 3 in order to classify them as desensitized explosives in the sense of Chapter 2.17. This, however, goes without stating it explicitly.
4. According to the assessment of the experts from Germany, this gap is rather a formal one. In practice, explosives which are diluted sufficiently to fulfil the other criteria (no mass explosion hazard, corrected burning rate ≤ 1200 kg/min) for classification as desensitized explosives, most likely are also not too sensitive in the sense of test series 3. But as this cannot be ruled out, the experts from Germany would like to close this gap and to propose a minimally invasive amendment as shown in paragraph 5.
5. Amend paragraph 2.17.1.1 as follows (amendment shown in **bold and underlined**):

2.17.1.1 Desensitized explosives are solid or liquid explosive substances or mixtures which are phlegmatized to suppress their explosive properties in such a manner that they **are not too sensitive according to test series 3 of the Manual of Tests and Criteria**, do not mass explode and do not burn too rapidly and therefore may be exempted from the hazard class “Explosives” (Chapter 2.1; see also Note 2 of paragraph 2.1.2.2).¹
6. The expert from Germany would appreciate to receive feedback from the Sub-Committee and based on this would prepare a working document for the December 2021 session as appropriate.