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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-ninth session** 

Geneva, 29 November – 8 December 2021 Item 3 of the provisional agenda **Listing, classification and packing** 

Proposal for exemption of manufactured articles containing small amounts of Gallium - Update of document ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2021/17

## Transmitted by the expert from China\*

### Introduction

- 1. At the fifty-eighth session of the Sub-Committee, the expert from China submitted official document ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2021/17, proposing to amend special provision 366 to make it also adjust to "gallium contained in manufactured articles", so that articles containing gallium and meeting relevant requirements were not subjected to the UN Model Regulations.
- 2. Gallium, UN No. 2803, is a corrosive silver white metal with a low melting point. Considering that it is safer and more environmentally friendly, this metal and its alloys are currently being widely used in a variety of products (such as mercury-free gallium thermometers and gallium UV lamps) as a substitute of mercury. According to the Model Regulations, mercury-containing articles meeting the requirements in special provision 366 are not subject to the regulations, while there is no special provision to exempt manufactured articles containing small amounts of gallium.
- 3. During the discussion at that session, most experts who spoke showed no opposition to the principle of this proposal. However, on the proposed options for amendments, agreement was not reached. Experts gave many valuable comments on issues including whether it is necessary to introduce a new UN number, whether the special packaging provision PP41 referring to dry ice should be introduced for gallium contained in manufactured articles, whether the requirements to exempt articles containing mercury and gallium in special provision A69 of the Technical Instructions of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) should be introduced into the UN Model Regulations, etc.
- 4. After considering the feedback received during that session, experts from China submitted this updated working document to the fifty-ninth session of Sub-Committee.
- 5. This document contains two options. Option 1 is to add the entry GALLIUM CONTAINED IN MANUFACTURED ARTICLES and amend special provision 366 for this

<sup>\*</sup> A/75/6 (Sect.20), para. 20.51

entry. Option 2 is to introduce a new special provision to the current entry of UN No. 2803, GALLIUM, to exempt the articles meeting the requirements in the new special provision, while articles containing gallium that do not meet the requirements should be transported under UN No. 3363 or UN No. 3547.

# **Proposal**

6. China proposes two options to address exemption of manufactured articles containing small amounts of gallium (new text is bold and underlined, deleted text is stricken-through).

#### Option 1

7. It is proposed to add in Chapter 3.2 Dangerous Goods List a new entry for gallium contained in manufactured articles and to insert in the new entry the modified special provision 366 as follows:

Ţ	UN No.	Name and description	Class or	Subsidiary	UN	Special	Limited Pa		Packagings		Portable tanks and bulk	
			division	hazard	packing	Provisions	and		and IBCs		containers	
					group		excepted		Packing	Special	Instructions	Special
							quantities		instructionpacking			provisions
										provisions		
	<u>35XX</u>	GALLIUM	8			366	5kg	<u>E0</u>	P003	PP90		
		CONTAINED IN	_							<u> </u>		
		MANUFACTURED										
		<u>ARTICLES</u>										

8. In 4.1.4.1 amend in packing instruction P003, special packaging provision PP90 to read as follows:

"PP90 For UN 3506 and UN 35XX, sealed inner liners or bags of strong leak-proof and puncture resistant material impervious to mercury or gallium which will prevent escape of the substance from the package irrespective of the position or the orientation of the package shall be used. For air transport additional requirements may apply."

- 9. In Chapter 3.3 amend special provision 366 to read as follows:
  - "366 For land and sea transport, manufactured instruments and articles containing not more than 1 kg of mercury <u>or gallium</u> are not subject to these Regulations. For air transport, articles containing not more than 15 g of mercury <u>or gallium</u> are not subject to these Regulations."
- 10. And amend special provision 365 to read as follows:
  - "365 For manufactured instruments and articles containing mercury <u>or gallium</u>, see UN 3506 <u>or UN 35XX</u>."
- 11. In addition, amend in 3.2.2 the existing entry UN No. 2803 GALLIUM to apply special provision 365:

UN No.			 UN packing group	•	Limite except		Packagings and IBCsPortable tanks and bul containers			
					•		Packing instruction	•	Instructions	Special provisions
								provisions		
2803	GALLIUM	8	III	365	5kg	E0	P800	PP41	T1	TP33

## Option 2

12. It is proposed to introduce in Chapter 3.2 Dangerous Goods List a new special provision 3YY to the current entry of UN No. 2803:

UN No.	Name and	Class or	Subsidiary	UN packing	Special	Limited a	and	d Packagings		Portable tanks and bulk	
	description	division	hazard	group	Provisions	excepted		and IBCs		containers	
						quantities		Packing	Special	Instructions	Special
								instruction	packing		provisions
									provisions		
2803	GALLIUM	8		III	<u>3YY</u>	5kg E	Ε0	P800	PP41	T1	TP33

13. In Chapter 3.3 add a new special provision 3YY to read as follows:

"3YY For land and sea transport, manufactured instruments and articles containing not more than 1 kg of gallium are not subject to these Regulations. For air transport, articles containing not more than 15 g of gallium are not subject to these Regulations. Manufactured instruments and articles containing an excessive amount of gallium shall be transported under the entries UN 3363, DANGEROUS GOODS IN ARTICLES or DANGEROUS GOODS IN MACHINERY or DANGEROUS GOODS IN APPARATUS, or UN 3547, ARTICLES CONTAINING CORROSIVE SUBSTANCE, N.O.S., as appropriate."

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