

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

17 November 2023

Sixty-third session

Geneva, 27 November-6 December 2023

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Listing, classification and packing

Improvements to the utilization and classification of the indicative list of Category A infectious substances

Transmitted by the World Health Organization (WHO)

I. Introduction

1. The objective of this informal document is to develop a universal, risk-based classification of infectious substances and establish a flexible procedure for reviewing the indicative list of Category A infectious substances, i.e. an enhanced facilitation and utilization and achieving global harmonization.
2. Overall, this proposal aims to ensure the safe and secure transport of infectious substances by establishing clear and consistent standards for their classification.

II. Background

3. The indicative list of Category A identifies the infectious substances that pose the greatest risk to public health and safety, and as such, are subject to the strictest regulatory requirements for transport.
4. Notwithstanding, the recent outbreak of Monkeypox has highlighted the importance of an indicative list of Category A infectious substances that is updated with greater frequency, founded on a sound risk-based approach, and modifiable in response to the pathogen in question that causes the outbreak. Given the multitude of requests directed to the World Health Organization (WHO) for guidance in this regard, it appears reasonable that the WHO reviews this list on a regular basis.

III. Proposal

5. Implementing a more efficient process for flexible and rapid adaptation of the indicative list for broader impact. Thereby, amending the *UN Model Regulation* by implementing a reference structure, that refers to an official website from WHO, displaying the indicative list of Category A pathogens. This could lead to the following outcomes:
 - (a) **Increased utilization:** Better utilization of the indicative list, through the additional recommendations of a global acting organization.
 - (b) **Enhanced responsiveness to health crises:** by rapidly updating and disseminating information, responses to emerging health threats can be prompter and more effective.
 - (c) **Increased accessibility of information:** Stakeholders worldwide would have easier access to the latest health regulations and guidelines, improving global health and safety standards.

- (d) **Higher utilization rates:** With more accessible and up-to-date information, compliance with international health regulations may improve, reducing the risk of global health issues.
 - (e) **Streamlined regulatory processes:** The implementation of a dynamic, online indicative list could streamline regulatory processes, making it easier for countries to adapt to new guidelines.
 - (f) **Greater transparency in health governance:** This approach could increase transparency, as stakeholders can see real-time updates and understand the rationale behind changes in health regulations. Further information for pathogens listed on the indicative list of Category A, can be user-friendly provided on the website.
6. Revision of the list utilizing a risk-based approach to establish an acceptable baseline for all countries.
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