

**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

1 December 2023

Sixty-third session

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Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Listing, classification and packing

**Development of a comprehensive approach following
reclassification of existing entries in the dangerous goods list**

Transmitted by the expert from Canada

1. In response to Canada's request in document INF.28, some members of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods met during a coffee break at the 63rd session to discuss the possibility of creating an intersessional informal working group to develop a more systematic and comprehensive approach to determine when transport provisions and packing requirements can be maintained after the reclassification of existing entries and when they should be aligned with the new classification, based on the guiding principles; as well as when transition periods are required following the reclassification of these entries. It was agreed that the Sub-Committee would benefit from the creation of such an informal working group to promote consistency within the UN Model Regulations.

2. As a starting point, the informal working group will proceed with the review of the Guiding Principles in light of the following questions:

- (a) What criteria should be used to determine if the transport provisions and packing requirements should be modified and if transitional periods are required? Are different transitional periods required depending on the impact of the change in classification?
- (b) What factors should be considered?
 - (i) Applicability or feasibility of the new packaging?
 - (ii) Economic impact?
 - (iii) Accident or incident data?
 - (iv) Others?
- (c) Is the addition of subsidiary hazards always necessary, even if the substance meets the criteria for another class or division?
- (d) Others?

3. This intersessional informal working group will aim to meet monthly, starting at the end of January 2024, until this matter is considered resolved. An informal paper on progress and ongoing discussions will be presented at the 64th session, followed by a formal proposal if a consensus on establishing a comprehensive approach is reached within the informal working group. If this proves to be the case, the informal working group will then endeavour to complete its work this biennium in order to be able to apply this new comprehensive framework during the new biennium.

4. Sub-Committee members can contact the Canadian delegation to signify their interest in participating in this initiative through an email at TDGUNCANADA-ONUCANADATMD@tc.gc.ca. The Canadian delegation will coordinate future work.

5. This informal proposal supports sustainable development goal 6, “peace, justice, and strong institutions.” Specifically, adopting a more comprehensive and systematic approach to reclassification in the Model Regulations enables the creation of more consistent regulations, thus contributing to the implementation of target 16.6 to “develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels”.
