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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**
(Nineteenth session, 2-6 July 2001,
agenda item 5(b))

PACKAGINGS

Miscellaneous proposals

UN 2813 Water-reactive solid N.O.S (Magnesium/Iron/Polyethylene Powder)

Transmitted by the expert from the United Kingdom

Background

1. A water-reactive solid substance, (Magnesium/Iron/Polyethethylene Powder) is used in small quantities of up to 15g as a method of heating ready cooked and packed meals, "Meals Ready to Eat" (MRE), for military personnel as well as for campers and hikers.
2. These meals are prepared and packaged, together with cutlery and a sealed package of the solid substance. Each sachet of substance is sealed in a plastics bag. This plastics bag is in turn placed with the meal inside another plastics bag. The completed meals are packed in a fibreboard box. In the field, the user opens a meal, unseals the water reactive solid and adds a small quantity of water to the water-reactive solid in order to reheat the meal over a period of 10-15 minutes.

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3. This water reactive solid meets the provisions of packing group I for UN 2813, and is therefore allocated to packing instruction P403. For combination packagings in P403 there is a requirement that permitted inner packagings containing such substances shall have threaded closures.

4. The expert from the United Kingdom proposes that these combination packages should be regulated as dangerous goods in transport under the conditions for UN 2813, PGI, but the threaded closure requirement is impracticable and not necessary.

Proposal

5. Add a new special packaging provision to P403 as follows:

PPxx For UN 2813 packing group I, sachets not exceeding 15 g may be packaged in “Meals Ready to Eat” (MRE). Each sachet shall be sealed in a plastics bag and placed in a further plastics bag with the meal. No outer packaging shall contain more than 300 g of substance.
