

# UN/SCETDG/21/INF.4

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## COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

### Sub-Committee of Experts on the

### Transport of Dangerous Goods

(Twenty-first session, 1-10 July 2002,

Agenda item 7)

### Transport of infectious substances

### Transmitted by the World Health Organization (WHO)

### Communication in support of ST/SG/AC.10/C3/2002/16

Since the last biennium, 1999-2000, the World Health Organization (WHO) has repeatedly expressed concern regarding applicability of current Infectious Substances regulations.

This biennium, 2001-2002, the expert from Canada has coordinated a complete review of the existing text.

Anticipating this review process, WHO organized a dedicated meeting in Lyon on 8-10 October 2001. An international panel of expert advisors on biological safety, communicable diseases, epidemiology, disease control and waste management, including transport representatives, gathered to conceive a more appropriate, evidence based risk assessment system for transport of all biological substances. The outcomes of the Lyon meeting were reported to the Committee in UN/SCETDG/20/INF41 and were intended to form the scientific rationale for further work in cooperation with the Canadian remit.

At the intersessional meeting in Paris on 11-13 March 2002, a WHO delegation supplemented the various interested parties to provide scientific support and to demonstrate the applicability of the Lyon risk assessments findings. This intersessional group comprehensively reviewed, amended, and reached consensus on the current draft proposal.

As an active participant in this review process, WHO considers the improvements proposed to Division 6.2 Infectious Substances in ST/SG/AC.10/C3/2002/16 are scientifically defensible, enhance safety for direct and indirect users, and significantly increase clarity, completeness and ease of use.

Consequently, WHO fully endorses the implicit changes.

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