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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

(Twenty-second session, 2-6 December 2002,
agenda item 3)

TEXT ADOPTED BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE AT ITS NINETEENTH, TWENTIETH AND TWENTY-FIRST SESSIONS AND RELATED PROPOSALS

Transport of infectious substances

Transmitted by the expert from Germany

1. Background

The expert from Germany refers to the discussion on the transport of infectious substances at the 21st session of the Sub-Committee in July 2002. In paragraph 79 of the report (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/42) it is said that the expert from Germany and the representative of CP expressed the opinion that cultures prepared for the purpose of diagnosis should not come under Nos. 2814 or 2900. It was then **confirmed by the Sub-Committee that the paragraph in question referred to cultures as defined in 2.6.3.1.3, namely, cultures intended for the deliberate generation of pathogens, and not routine cultures intended for diagnosis** which came under UN No. 3373. After a working group had discussed this issue the representative of WHO presented a new version of the definition of "cultures". However this did not address our concerns.

We believe that it would be more appropriate and much more clearer if the statement of the Sub-Committee in paragraph 79 of the report were used for the definition of "cultures".

2. Proposal

In ST/SG/AC.10/C.3./2002/60 replace the last sentence in 2.6.3.1.3 by the following text:

" This definition refers to cultures intended for the deliberate generation of pathogens, and does not include routine cultures intended for diagnosis purposes."
