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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-third session, 30 June-4 July 2003

SELF-REACTIVE SUBSTANCES

Miscellaneous proposals

**Amendment of the criteria for the exclusion of
self-reactive substances from Division 4.1**

Transmitted by the expert from France

Justification

1. In paragraph 2.4.2.3.1.1 (b), it is stated that substances are not considered to be self-reactive substances if they are oxidizing substances according to the assignment procedure of Division 5.1. This exclusion means that, theoretically, it is not necessary to apply the classification procedure in Division 4.1.
2. However, experience shows that certain substances which possess oxidizing properties also have self-reactive properties and could be classified in accordance with the flow chart scheme in 2.4.1.

3. In this instance, the a priori exclusion of Division 5.1 substances is all the more surprising when one considers that, according to the precedence of hazard characteristics in 2.0.3, the hazard of self-reactive substances (Division 4.1) is greater than the hazard posed by Division 5.1.

4. This exclusion could have serious consequences to the extent that, if the hazard of self-reactivity is not taken into account, no appropriate temperature regulation can be applied.

Proposal

5. Delete paragraph 2.4.2.3.1.1 (b).
