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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

Thirty-second session
Geneva, 3-12 (a.m.) December 2007
Item 10 of the provisional agenda

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally
Harmonized System of Classification
and Labelling of Chemicals

Fourteenth session
Geneva, 12-14 December 2007
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

IMPROVEMENT OF HAZARD COMMUNICATION

Systematic approach for colours and appearance of pictograms (placards)
according to the GHS classification

Transmitted by the International Technical Committee for the prevention and Extinction of Fire
(CTIF) ^{*/}

Background

1. The Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG Sub-Committee) has accepted CTIF's proposal to include a review of the 'Provisions for labels' set out in paragraph 5.2.2.2 of the Model Regulations within its work programmes for the 2005/06 biennium.
2. The aim of the review would be to develop a systematic approach for colours and appearance of pictograms (placards), according to the GHS classification, in order to better meet the needs of target audiences.

^{*/} In accordance with the programme of work of the Sub-Committee for 2007-2008 approved by the Committee at its third session (refer to ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/60, para. 100 and ST/SG/AC.10/34, para. 14) (cooperation with the GHS Sub-Committee).

3. The proposal to establish a working group which should carry out this review was not accepted.

4. Since then CTIF has received several comments on the thought starter presented in ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2004/89 and ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/2004/18 as well as the information documents presented at the December 2006 meetings of both sub-committees.

5. It was recommended to deal with the issues highlighted in these papers in a step-by-step approach to avoid confusion and allow differentiation accordingly.

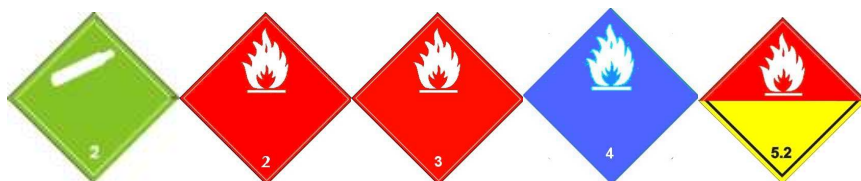
Current status

6. In low light conditions various pictograms cannot be identified properly because the contrast between the background colour and symbol is not good enough.

7. Unquestionably leakages of flammable gases and flammable liquids pose special risks to emergency responders. The visibility of a black flame on the red background is often very poor and thus the hazard information is not conveyed in the intended manner.

Proposal

8. Only white symbols and numbers should appear on black, green, red and blue background.



Justification

9. The proposed specification enhances the visibility of the pictograms and allows easy identification of the relevant classes.

10. No totally new colours are introduced.

11. Therefore the proposed specification fits into the overall system of labelling.

Implementation

12. The proposed changes call for only minor amendments in existing legislations.

Consequential amendments

13. In 5.2.2.2.2,

Under class 2

change the text under label No. 2.1 to read:

“Symbol (flame): white;

Background: red

change the text under label No. 2.2 to read:

“Symbol (cylinder): white;

Background: green

Under Class 3

change the text under label No. 3 to read:

“Symbol (flame): white;

Background: red

Under Class 4

change the text under label No. 4.3 to read:

“Symbol (flame): white;

Background: blue

Under Class 5

change the text under label No. 5.2 to read:

“Symbol (flame): white;

Background: upper half red;

lower half yellow”
