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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, 3-7 December 2007
Item 11 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 7 of the provisional agenda

OTHER BUSINESS

Meeting and schedule

Transmitted by the Expert from Canada

1. The Expert from Canada recognizes the need to shorten the thirty-second session of the Sub-Committee given the small number of proposals and notes that this is not the first time that a meeting has had to be shortened for the same reason.
2. In the opinion of the Expert from Canada, this points to a need for the Sub-Committee to reconsider the work schedule. Currently, with the July-December schedule, the time between the end of the July meeting and the deadline for papers for the December meeting is extremely short and does not adequately provide for the development of papers and appropriate coordination and consultation.
3. The UN Model Regulations is now a mature document. The current work schedule allows the meetings to deal relatively easily with clarifying existing requirements or updating requirements to take account of new technology. However, there are more complicated issues, like limited quantities or lithium batteries, that need attention but the current work schedule does not readily lend itself to the national and international coordination and consultation needed for these types of issues.
4. The Expert from Canada invites the Sub-Committee to reconsider the work schedule for the Sub-Committee meetings before the meeting schedule is set for the next biennium. Consultation with, and comments from, the Secretariat and the GHS Sub-Committee are, of course, essential.
5. As a thought starter, perhaps meetings every eight months is an option to consider with the first meeting of the biennium taking place in June, the second meeting in February and the third meeting in October coupled with the full Committee meeting. The current number of meeting days could be divided between these three meetings.