

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

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OTHER BUSINESS

EMERGENCY RESPONSE GUIDEBOOK 2008

Transmitted by the Experts from Canada and the United States of America

1. The Experts from Canada and the United States of America are pleased to be able to provide to the Sub-Committee copies of the Emergency Response Guidebook 2008 (ERG2008).
2. The ERG2008 was developed jointly by Transport Canada, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), the Secretariat of Transport and Communications of Mexico (SCT) and with the collaboration of CIQUIME (Centro de Información Química para Emergencias) of Argentina.
3. The ERG2008 is intended to aid first responders in quickly identifying the hazards of any dangerous goods involved in an incident so that they can protect themselves and the public during the initial response phase of an incident. The "initial response phase" is that period following arrival at the scene of first responders during which the presence and identification of dangerous goods is confirmed, protective actions and area securement are initiated and assistance of qualified personnel is requested. The ERG2008 is not a classification guide and is not intended to provide information on the physical or chemical properties of dangerous goods.
4. The **yellow-bordered** pages are arranged numerically by UN Number or NA Number, referred to as "ID Number" in the Guide. The Guide page to be consulted follows the ID Number and this is followed by the shipping name of the dangerous goods. These pages are consulted when the first responders have an ID Number available either from a placard or orange panel or from shipping documents.
5. The **blue-bordered** pages are arranged alphabetically by shipping name. The shipping name is followed by the Guide page to be consulted and the ID number of the dangerous goods. These pages would be consulted if only the shipping name of the dangerous goods is available to first responders from, for example, documents.

6. If an ID number or a shipping name cannot be obtained but a placard is visible, pages 16 and 17 of the Guide reproduce the placards and show the Guide page to be consulted.
7. The **orange-bordered** pages are the Guide pages that are consulted to obtain safety recommendations to be initiated during the initial response phase of an incident.
8. The **green-bordered** pages provide isolation and protective action distances for substances that pose toxic hazards.
9. The Emergency Response Guide (various editions) is available in a number of languages, in addition to English, French and Spanish, including Chinese, Dutch, German, Hebrew, Hungarian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Thai and Turkish.
10. Several electronic versions are available, free of charge, from Transport Canada at the CANUTEC web site (www.tc.gc.ca) such as PDF, an ERG2008 on-line and an ERGO2008 downloadable version that provides information in all three languages, English, French and Spanish.

In addition, a number of electronic versions of the ERG are available, free of charge, via the U.S. Department of Transportation website at <http://hazmat.dot.gov/pubs/erg/gydebook.htm> These versions include PDF format, ERG Mobile Software for computers and personal digital assistants (PDAs), and Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders (WISER) format. WISER is a system designed to assist first responders in dangerous goods incidents. WISER provides a wide range of information on dangerous goods, including substance identification support, physical characteristics, human health information, and containment and suppression advice.

11. The Guide can easily be translated into any language in which it is not yet available. Transport Canada has a data base of key phrases used in the ERG2008 that can be used to aid in translation. Other editions of the ERG can also be easily updated and revised to reflect the ERG2008 information. For more information and assistance please contact:

Michel Cloutier,
Director, CANUTEC
Transport Canada
Telephone: 1-613-947-5052
Fax: 1-613-954-5101
Email: cloutm@tc.gc.ca
