

## 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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### EXPLOSIVES AND RELATED MATTERS

#### Classification of airbags

Transmitted by the expert from Austria

#### Interpretation of the text of the external fire (bonfire) test (Manual of Tests and Criteria 16.6.1)

The text for the bonfire test regarding the test of airbags can be interpreted in different ways. Therefore we would like to have a statement from experts of the ECOSOC to the following questions:

1. Does “as close as possible to one another” (16.6.1.3.1) mean that i.e. 8 packages should be arranged as a cube (2 by 2 by 2) or is one layer more suitable? (Airbags from the first layer may throw away airbags from the second layer.)
2. Does “projections” mean any part of the packages (articles and packagings) or only “splinters” (éclat)? (Figure 16.6.1.1 contains 500g projections with a projection distance of 4.1 m, which is a big part with a very low speed. On the other hand the introduction speaks from “dangerous” projections.)
3. Does “oriented in such a way that a maximum probability for projections hitting the witness screens is obtained” (16.6.1.3.1) mean that different orientations are required even if orientation arrows are used to define a certain orientation during transport?
4. Are there any minimum distances between this steel strips (16.6.1.2 (d): strapping or wire) to support the packages during the test?

These parameters will influence the result of the test.

#### Interpretation of the text of UN 3268, UN 0432 and SP 280 (Model Regulations 3.2 und 3.3)

Are generators (inflators) for seatbelt pretensioners UN3268 or UN0432?

SP 280: This entry applies to articles which are used as life-saving vehicle air bag inflators, or air bag modules or seat-belt pretensioners and which contain dangerous goods of Class 1 or dangerous goods of other classes and when transported as component parts and when these articles as presented for transport have been tested in accordance with Test series 6 (c) of Part I of the Manual of Tests and Criteria, with no explosion of the device, no fragmentation of device casing or pressure vessel, and no projection hazard nor thermal effect which would significantly hinder fire-fighting or other emergency response efforts in the immediate vicinity.

The idea is that these articles do not present the typical hazard of explosives. It is clear that the more dangerous air bag modules which do not pass the test series 6 are articles of class 1.

This is not so clear for generators for seatbelt pretensioners, because these generators are less dangerous than air bag inflators, which contain much higher amounts of explosive substance.

The existing wording for UN3268: “AIR BAG INFLATORS, or AIR BAG MODULES, or SEATBELT PRETENSIONERS†” (explanation in Appendix B missing!) is not clear.

We propose to add “SEATBELT PRETENSIONERS INFLATORS; or SEATBELT PRETENSIONERS MODULES” in the text or at least in the explanation in Appendix B.

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