

## 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-third session  
Geneva, 30 June-9 July (a.m) 2008  
Item 4 (c) of the provisional agenda

### LISTING, CLASSIFICATION AND PACKING

Compressed gas cylinders containing an actuating device

Transmitted by the expert from the United States of America

#### **Background**

1. At present, the entry UN 1044 (“FIRE EXTINGUISHERS with compressed or liquefied gas”) is assigned Special Provision 225. Special Provision 225 allows fire extinguishers to be fitted with an installed explosives actuating cartridge (cartridges, power device of Division 1.4C or 1.4S) without changing the classification of Division 2.2. Many of the fire extinguishers transported under this entry are used in aircraft applications in which the actuating cartridge is necessary to remotely activate the extinguisher to allow release of the fire suppressant medium.
2. Large commercial aircraft now undergoing certification will employ small oxygen cylinders installed in the overhead above passenger seats to provide emergency oxygen in the event of depressurization. Like fire extinguishers installed in aircraft, the release of oxygen from these cylinders will be initiated remotely by the pilot when necessary by means of a small explosives actuating cartridge attached to each cylinder. It will be necessary to transport these small cylinders, with the actuator installed, in connection with the manufacturing, maintenance and servicing of these aircraft. However, like the fire extinguishers to which Special Provision 225 is currently assigned, owing to the relatively small amount of deflagrating (propellant) explosives allowed to be contained in the actuating device the principle hazard posed by these oxygen cylinders remains that of Division 2.2, and not Class 1.
3. The Sub-Committee is invited to consider the issue and discuss the best way forward to address such cylinders. It is proposed that the issue be discussed in detail within the Explosives Working Group meeting concurrently this session.

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