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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-fifth session  
Geneva, 22-26 June 2009  
Item 10 of the provisional agenda

**ISSUES RELATING TO THE GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF  
CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS (GHS)**

Report of the Working Group on Desensitized Explosives

Transmitted by the chairman of the Working Group<sup>1</sup>

1. The working group met on 8 and 9 December 2008 to discuss classification matters regarding desensitized explosives. Experts from Australia, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Spain, United Kingdom, United States of America, DGAC, ICCA and SAAMI participated in the meeting.
2. The report of previous meetings of the working group (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2008/39 was used as the base document). The group was reminded of the reason for starting this work: currently, desensitized explosives are not addressed in the GHS (other than being mentioned in a footnote) whilst hazard communication and statements are necessary for this category of substances. Therefore, changes to current classifications should be prevented.

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with the programme of work of the Sub-Committee for 2009-2010 approved by the Committee at its fourth session (refer to ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/68 para. 118(i) and ST/SG/AC.10/36, para. 14)

3. The group discussed the report extensively. Several experts questioned the validity of the proposed flow chart and the use of Test Series 1 in the classification procedure. Furthermore, there were doubts on having three different types of desensitized explosives, partly based on weight limits.

4. Summarising the discussions, the Chairman concluded that there was too little support for the principles given in document ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2008/39 and asked for an alternative approach.

5. The group agreed to go through the list of currently assigned desensitized explosives in Class 3 and Division 4.1 and to categorise them with regards to hazard.

6. The preliminary results are listed in the table below. One of the principles used was that explosives desensitized with alcohol would have a fire hazard.

<b>UN no.</b>	<b>Dominant hazard</b>	<b>UN no.</b>	<b>Dominant hazard</b>
1204	Fire hazard	2557	Fire hazard
1310	Low hazard	2852	Low hazard
1320	Low hazard?	2907	Low hazard
1321	Low hazard?	3064	Fire hazard
1322	Low hazard?	3317	Low hazard
1336	Low hazard	3319	High hazard
1337	Low hazard	3343	Fire hazard
1344	Medium hazard	3344	High hazard
1347	Medium hazard	3357	High hazard
1348	Low hazard?	3364	Medium hazard
1349	Low hazard	3365	Medium hazard
1354	Medium hazard	3366	Medium hazard
1355	Medium hazard	3367	Medium hazard
1356	Medium hazard	3368	Medium hazard
1357	High hazard	3369	Low hazard?
1517	Low hazard	3370	High hazard
1571	Low hazard	3376	Low hazard
2059	Fire hazard	3379	High hazard
2555	Low hazard	3380	High hazard
2556	Fire hazard	3474	Low hazard

7. All experts agreed to check for and provide supporting (or contradicting) data for the June 2009 session. New data could be a reason to change the number of categories (fire, low, medium, high).

8. Once the categories are finalised, suitable hazard communication and statements can be developed for each category.

9. A large number of consequential amendments to the Model Regulations, Manual of Tests and Criteria and the GHS document are anticipated.

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