



Secretariat

Distr.  
GENERAL

ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2009/47  
9 September 2009

Original: ENGLISH

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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-sixth session  
Geneva, 30 November – 9 December 2009  
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**LISTING, CLASSIFICATION AND PACKING**

Clarification of text related to classification of lithium cells and batteries  
in the Manual of Tests and Criteria

Transmitted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)<sup>1</sup>

**Introduction**

1. At the 2009 meeting of the ICAO Dangerous Goods Panel (DGP) Working Group of the Whole (DGP-WG09, Auckland, 4 to 8 May 2009), consideration was given as to whether or not the wording in paragraph 38.3.2.1 of the Manual of Tests and Criteria in respect of testing of lithium batteries was sufficiently clear. It was noted that the intent of the text was to specify that both cells and batteries must be tested, i.e. if the battery is formed of a number of cells, even if the cells have been tested, the battery itself must also be tested. It was suggested that the text in the Manual was ambiguous and a note clarifying its intent was presented. It was proposed the United Nations be asked to add the note under paragraph 38.3.2.1.

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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 (b) and ST/SG/AC.10/36, para. 14).

2. It was reported that the second meeting of the United Nations working group on lithium batteries had discussed this issue. However, views were evenly divided on whether the proposed inclusion of an explanatory note was needed or not. Furthermore, it was felt by some that the proposed text needed some improvement anyway.

3. It was agreed that this matter should be submitted to the Sub-Committee of Experts for consideration on the basis it was a multimodal issue.

### **Proposal**

4. It is proposed that the following note be added under paragraph 38.3.2.1 of the Manual of Tests and Criteria:

***NOTE:** Batteries are subject to the tests required by special provisions 188 and 230 of Chapter 3.3 of the Model Regulations irrespective of whether the cells of which they are composed have been so tested.*

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