

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 2008
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

EXPLOSIVES AND RELATED MATTERS

Review of the UN Test Series 7

Report of the Working Group

Transmitted by the Chairman of the Working Group (United Kingdom)

Introduction

1. The Sub-Committee will recall that at the 34th session of the UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, December 2008, the expert from the United Kingdom produced UN/SCETDG/34/INF.23 informing the Sub-Committee of a Test Series 7 Informal Working Group Meeting to be held in the City of Bath on the 17th and 18th March 2009.
2. The Intersessional Working Group Meeting was hosted by the United Kingdom's Ministry of Defence. Attendees representing Finland, France, Romania, Norway, the United States of America and the United Kingdom were present. This information paper is a brief summary of the discussions of the Intersessional Working Group Meeting. A further INF paper is being submitted from the Chairman of the working group for consideration by the Explosives Working Group.

Summary of Progress to Date

3. The chairman explained that following the 1st inter-sessional workshop an information paper had been prepared for the July 2008 session of the UN Sub-Committee of Experts. The paper had been accepted with the proviso that the UK held a second workshop, hence this second meeting. The latest version of that paper was reviewed by the IWG and formed the basis for further discussions.

Main Topics of discussion

4. The main topics under discussion were:

(a) Changes to the definitions of HD1.6 & Compatibility Group N

The WG agreed to propose a change to the HD 1.6 classification definition by deleting the word “detonating” from the terms “extremely insensitive detonating articles” and “extremely insensitive detonating substance.” It was agreed that it was not a requirement for articles entering HD 1.6 and the substances that they contain to be capable of detonating. Therefore compositions upon passing UN TS 7 substance testing could become known as “extremely insensitive substances” (EIS) and articles containing these upon completion of UN TS 7 could be come known as “extremely insensitive articles”.

(b) Changes to the EIDS tests and the article tests

The WG reviewed the tests for EIDS and the new EIS and concluded that further work would be required to determine the future make-up of this test regime. It was agreed that substances contained in embedded boosting components be subject Series 5(a) and 5(b) as opposed to UN TS7 substance tests.

(c) Changes to Test Series 7(j) Bullet impact test

The changes are suggested in order to ensure a tightening up of the test criteria to remove the deflagration result. The test would also ensure that the most vulnerable part of the potential 1.6N article was targeted.

(d) Changes to Test Series 7(k) Article Stack test

Three tests are carried out in the test but this was considered by the WG to be excessive. Other minor changes to the testing criteria were proposed.

(e) Proposals for the July Sub- Committee meeting

It was agreed that the chairman of the IWG would prepare a further INF paper for consideration of the UNSCOE explosives working group in June.

Participation at UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods 22nd to 26th June.

5. The chairman of the IWG would be present at the June meeting in Geneva as part of the United Kingdom delegation to provide support and to help present the INF papers to explosives working group.

6. Finally, if the explosives working group agrees, the Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom may be prepared to host another Test Series 7 working group on outstanding issues in October 2009 if required.
