Economic Commission for Europe
Inland Transport Committee
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods 12 September 2013
Joint Meeting of the RID Committee of Experts and the
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
Geneva, 17-27 September 2013
Item 4 of the provisional agenda
Harmonization with the United Nations Recommendations
on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Assignment of Special Provision 172 to UN Nos. 2977 and 2978

Note by the secretariat

1. At the forty-second session of the United Nations Sub-Committee of Experts on the
Transport of Dangerous Goods in December 2012, the IAEA informed the Sub-Committee
that RID and ADR wrongly assigned special provision 172 to UN Nos. 2977 and 2978
(Uranium hexafluoride entries) (See informal document INF.55 submitted at the 42nd
session).

2. The Joint Meeting may wish to note that SP172 has not been assigned to these two
entries in the UN Model Regulations mainly because the subsidiary risk 8 is specifically
assigned to them and because uranium hexafluoride in quantities of 0.1 kg or more is
required to be carried in specific pressure receptacles which are subject to competent
authority approval. For quantities less than 0.1 kg, the new entry UN No. 3507 will have to
be used in future, provided that the conditions for carriage as excepted packages are met.

3. Therefore it seems to the secretariat that assignment of special provision 172 would
be relevant only:

(a) If the Joint Meeting considers that subsidiary risks other than class 8 have to
be taken into account (which is also a question still under discussion by the
UN Sub-Committee, see ST/AG/AC.10/C.3/84, paras 56-58); but in this case
the secretariat thinks that it would be preferable to indicate the subsidiary
risks in question rather than to leave some uncertainty in the regulations;

(b) For quantities less than 0.1 kg contained in packagings other than those
prescribed for quantities of 0.1 kg or more and not meeting the conditions for
excepted packages, if this is not a theoretical case.

4. In view of the above, the secretariat suggests that, for the purpose of harmonization
with the UN Model Regulations, special provision 172 should be deleted from column (6)
of Table A of Chapter 3.2 against UN Nos. 2977 and 2978.