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**Group of Experts for the revision of the IMO/ILO/UNECE
Guidelines for Packing of Cargo Transport Units**

Fourth session

Geneva, 4 – 6 November 2013

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

**Outcome of the fifty-sixth session of the UNECE Working
Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics**

Note by the secretariat

The UNECE Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24) held its fifty-sixth session on 21 and 22 October 2013. The secretariat reproduces below an excerpt from the draft report of WP.24 relating to the draft CTU Code.

**“X. Revision of the IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines for packing of cargo in
intermodal transport units (cargo transport units) (agenda item 9)**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2013/2, Informal documents WP.24 No.4 and 6 (2013); ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2011/5

54. The Working Party recalled that it had finalized in 1996, in cooperation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), international guidelines for the safe packing of cargo in freight containers and vehicles covering also the requirements of land transport modes (TRANS/WP.24/R.83 and Add.1). The guidelines were to be updated and supplemented by additional elements, such as provisions on fumigation (TRANS/WP.24/71, paras. 32–36). In 1997, ITC had approved these guidelines and had expressed the hope that these guidelines would help reduce personnel injury while handling containers and would minimize physical hazard to which cargoes were exposed in intermodal transport operations (ECE/TRANS/119, paras. 124–126).

55. In March 2009, the Working Party agreed to contribute to a review and update of the guidelines initiated by IMO. It requested the secretariat to coordinate with ILO and IMO and to report back on any new developments and procedures (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/123, paras. 45–47). In November 2011, the Working Party adopted the terms of reference of a Group of Experts on this subject (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2011/5) and endorsed the proposal to elevate the guidelines to a non-mandatory code of practice.

56. In November 2012, the Working Party was informed of progress made by the Group of Experts and of the status of work (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2012/2).

57. The Working Party noted with appreciation that the Group of Experts, at its third session (15-17 October 2012) had finalized a first comprehensive draft Code of Practice for packing of cargo transport units (CTU Code) available in English only at:

www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/doc/2013/wp24/DSC-18-8-Draft-CTU-Code.pdf.

58. The draft code has been transmitted to the IMO Sub-Committee on Dangerous Goods, Solid Cargoes and Containers for consideration at its eighteenth session (16-20 September 2013) and proposed a number of minor amendments.

59. The Working Party took note of the secretariat report (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2013/2) on progress achieved and approved in principle the Code of Practice, subject to minor amendments to be agreed upon by the final session of the Group of Expert scheduled for 4–6 November 2013.

60. Following completion of the Code of Practice (CTU Code) by the Group of Experts and consolidation by the secretariat, the Working Party invited the UNECE Inland Transport Committee to endorse, at its forthcoming session (25-27 February 2014) the CTU Code and to assist in its wide dissemination, including the setting-up of a specific web-site.

61. The Working Party expressed its appreciation to the Group of Experts, its Chair and Vice-chairs as well as the secretariat for having established, within a very short and ambitious time frame, a very ambitious and comprehensive global Code of Practice that would contribute to the safe handling and transport of containers by all modes of transport at the global level. The Working Party expressed the hope that the CTU Code would soon be extensively used and referred to by Governments, the transport industry and other stakeholders in international container transport and might also become an important element in relevant transport and cargo insurance contracts.

62. Detailed information on the activities of the Group of Experts is available at: www.unece.org/trans/wp24/guidelinespackingctus/intro.html".