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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**

#### **Fifty-first session**

Geneva, 3-7 July 2017

Item 2 (j) of the provisional agenda

**Explosives and related matters: miscellaneous**

## **Transporting fireworks in small quantities**

### **Transmitted by the expert from Switzerland\***

#### *Summary*

**Executive summary:** This proposal intends to simplify the provisions concerning the transport of UN No. 0337 fireworks, to permit small quantities to be shipped, in particular by post.

**Measure to be taken:** Add a new special provision for UN No. 0337.

## **Introduction**

1. The development of e-commerce is bringing about changes in customers purchasing habits, be they private individuals or companies. They no longer travel to buy goods in shops and no longer transport these goods themselves from the shop to their home. The delivery of goods, most frequently to private individuals but also to companies, is carried out by direct mail in small quantities (express couriers, postal services). This type of shipping is gaining in significance.

2. However, the logistics of this type of shipping do not allow all the requirements of the Regulations to be guaranteed, especially the requirement for a transport document. In

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\* In accordance with the programme of work of the Sub-Committee for the biennium 2017-2018 approved by the Committee at its eighth session (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/100, para. 98 and ST/SG/AC.10/44, paragraph 14).

land transport in Europe the transport document is not required for consignments according to Chapter 3.4. The obligation to have a transport document as a rule limits the scope for this type of shipping in land transport to dangerous goods packaged in limited quantities under Chapter 3.4 or in excepted quantities under Chapter 3.5.

3. To date, regulations on dangerous goods do not allow UN No. 0337 fireworks to be carried under the conditions in Chapter 3.4 (limited quantities) or 3.5 (excepted quantities). In class 1, only cartridges and cases of UN Nos. 0012, 0014 and 0055 may be carried in limited quantities.

4. The carriage of fireworks, often shipped in small quantities together with other festive articles not classified as dangerous goods, is rendered very complicated by current regulations. This creates disproportionate shipping costs, the risk related to these articles being not higher than the risk of other dangerous goods which can be carried under the Limited quantities regime.

5. The risk involved in retail distribution at the end of the chain of transport (single consignments) of UN No. 0337 fireworks (Division 1.4, Compatibility Group S) is very low if the quantity of pyrotechnic substance is low enough. Switzerland therefore proposes adopting provisions that allow these transports to be simplified.

6. We propose to introduce a new special provision. This allows to exonerate from conditions considered to be too restrictive transports of small quantities occurring most of the time at the end of the transport chain.

## **Proposal**

7. Add a new special provision XYZ for UN No. 0337 in Chapter 3.3 with the following text:

“XYZ UN No. 0337 fireworks containing up to 1 g pyrotechnic substance per article may be transported under the provisions of Chapter 3.4 provided the following conditions are met:

- The total net mass of pyrotechnic substance in each package is not more than 250 g; and
- The package as presented for transport, is capable of passing the test in accordance with Test Series 6(d) of Part I of the Manual of Tests and Criteria as determined by the competent authority.”.

## **Justification**

8. The proposal is similar to the solution adopted for UN Nos. 0012, 0014 and 0055 in SP 364 and is relevant mostly for consignments in retail distribution at the end of the chain of transport (single consignments).

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