



**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-third session**

Geneva, 25 June-4 July 2018

Item 2 (j) of the provisional agenda

**Explosives and related matters:
miscellaneous****Extension of the default fireworks classification table for
classification of Articles, pyrotechnic UN0431****Transmitted by the expert from the United States of America*****Introduction**

1. The UN default fireworks classification table in Section 2.1.3.5.5 is currently limited to fireworks assigned to UN Nos. 0333, 0334, 0335, or 0336.
2. While the article types listed in the default table may be designed for consumer use and transported under the “Fireworks” proper shipping name, many are also designed for professional applications such as theatrical effects, etc., and may be transported under the “Articles, pyrotechnic for technical purposes” proper shipping name. Examples of such articles are mines, fountains, and rockets.
3. For articles of similar composition and construction, authorities in sectors other than transport (i.e. storage, use, retail, fire prevention) may desire to differentiate the articles in order to provide the ability to tailor requirements accordingly. Permitting the default table to be used to designate articles as either fireworks or articles pyrotechnic (as appropriate), would allow for such differentiation without compromising safety, since default classification as Articles, pyrotechnic would be limited to the same article types and the same technical parameters as currently identified in the default table.
4. The expert from the United States of America submitted an informal document to the fifty-second session of the Sub-Committee seeking comment on a potential amendment to 2.1.3.5.2 to include within the default fireworks classification table the option to allow for default classification of articles which are more properly assigned UN0431 “Articles pyrotechnic for technical purposes,” 1.4G rather than assignment to the “fireworks” proper shipping name. The Working Group on Explosives expressed a recognition that since the

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

hazard was generally the same, that from a safety perspective allowing this classification option could be considered. However, some experts expressed concern that the proposal was too broad, as “articles pyrotechnic” typically encompasses a broader variety of article types than those classed as “fireworks” and therefore may lead to default classification of articles which do not fall within the parameters of the table. The intent of the original proposal was to only address article types that are currently defined in the default fireworks classification table and meet the existing specifications shown in the table.

5. A consequential amendment to the definition of “Articles, pyrotechnic for technical purposes” in the Appendix B Glossary of Terms is necessary as the definition currently excludes separately listed fireworks.

Proposal

6. Amend 2.1.3.5.2 to read as follows:

“2.1.3.5.2 Assignment of fireworks to UN Nos. 0333, 0334, 0335 or 0336, may be made on the basis of analogy, without the need for Test Series 6 testing, in accordance with the default fireworks classification table in 2.1.3.5.5. Such assignment shall be made with the agreement of the competent authority. Fireworks meeting the 1.4G criteria in the default fireworks classification table in 2.1.3.5.5 may also be assigned to UN0431 if they are intended for professional use only. Items not specified in the table shall be classified on the basis of test data derived from Test Series 6.”.

7. Amend the definition for ARTICLES, PYROTECHNIC for technical purposes in Appendix B Glossary of Terms to read as follows:

“ARTICLES, PYROTECHNIC for technical purposes

Articles which contain pyrotechnic substances and are used for technical purposes such as heat generation, gas generation, theatrical effects, etc. The term excludes the following articles which are listed separately: all ammunition; CARTRIDGES, SIGNAL; CUTTERS, CABLE, EXPLOSIVE; FIREWORKS (except Division 1.4G articles pyrotechnic as indicated in 2.1.3.5.2); FLARES, AERIAL; FLARES, SURFACE; RELEASE DEVICES, EXPLOSIVE; RIVETS, EXPLOSIVE; SIGNAL DEVICES, HAND; SIGNALS DISTRESS; SIGNALS, RAILWAY TRACK, EXPLOSIVE; SIGNALS, SMOKE.”.
