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**COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT
OF DANGEROUS GOODS**

(Twenty-first session,
4-13 December 2000,
agenda item 2 (b))

**WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS
ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS**

Draft amendments to the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Chapter 3.4 - Limited quantities

Placarding of transport units

Transmitted by the experts from Australia, Germany and Sweden

Introduction

At the 18th session of the Sub-Committee in July 2000 it was decided that:

- transport units carrying dangerous goods in limited quantities should carry appropriate placarding, whatever the dangerous goods carried, but that these placards could only be required once a certain quantity was exceeded.
- the experts concerned should prepare suitable proposals for defining the appropriate placards and the minimum quantity of goods after which the placards should be used.

This paper addresses the issue of placarding of transport units carrying dangerous goods in limited quantities. It does not address the issue of documentation – see paragraph 67 of ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/36.

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Background

A working group consisting of Australia, Germany, Sweden, CEFIC, CEPE and CTIF met in Bonn on 4 September 2000. The working group considered the form of the placard and the quantity limit at which the placard would become a requirement. The working group also considered the form of the placard for both loads of a single class of dangerous goods in limited quantities and for loads consisting of mixed classes of dangerous goods in limited quantities.

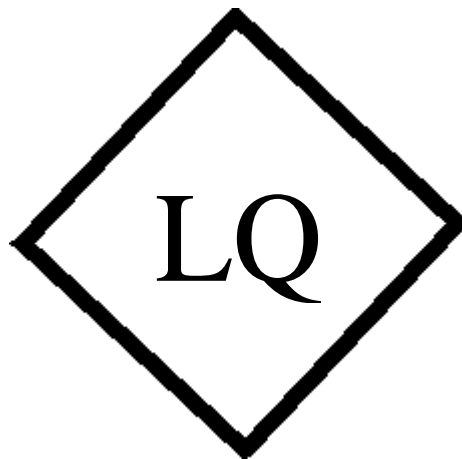
The working group considered these requirements for the different modes of transport for full container loads, and loads being only part loads. The working group understood that:

- the solution for placarding of transport units carrying limited quantities should be as simple as possible; and
- the placarding should link easily to the labelling system for packagings; and
- it should follow as closely as possible the current provisions of the model regulations regarding placarding.

The working group agreed with the Sub-Committee that the proposed system for placarding of limited quantity loads should not be risk oriented, but should provide the maximum possible level of information to the emergency services.

The working group agreed that:

- for transport units containing a single class of dangerous goods in limited quantities, that the placard be the class label for the appropriate class of dangerous goods;
- for transport units containing different classes of dangerous goods in limited quantities, that a new placard as shown below be introduced:



The background of the placard is to be white, and the border and the letters LQ (Limited Quantities) are to be in black.

In this proposal, the transport unit is to be placarded when it contains any quantity of dangerous goods packed in limited quantities, consistent with the current general placarding requirements of

the UN Model Regulations. However, the working group noted that the various domestic land transport regulations may require different limits at which the placards are applied. The working group agreed that 2000 L/kg net would appear appropriate for land transport.

The UN Model Regulations must cover all modes. The maritime mode currently requires marking of transport units for any quantity of dangerous goods in limited quantities. The proposed system meets the maritime requirement; domestic land transport regulations implementing the UN Model Regulations can introduce suitable and applicable minimum levels. However, for international inter-modal shipment, the placard is to be applied to all shipments of dangerous goods packaged in limited quantities

Proposal

Paragraph 5.3.1.1.2(a) should be amended to read as follows:

"Placards are not required on transport units carrying any quantity of explosives of division 1.4, Compatibility group S, or excepted packages of radioactive material Class 7, and".

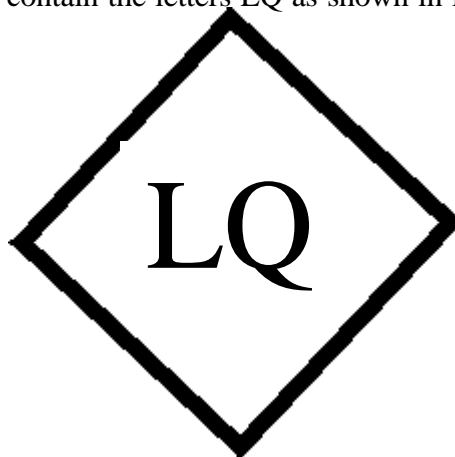
2. Add a new sub paragraph 5.3.1.1.2(c) to read as follows:

"(c) For limited quantities, when a transport unit contains mixed classes of dangerous goods in limited quantities, the placard may be the mixed class LQ placard show in paragraph 5.3.1.2.2 in figure xx".

3. Add a new paragraph 5.3.1.2.2:

"For mixed classes of dangerous goods in limited quantities the placard shall have minimum dimensions of 250 mm H 250 mm, with a line in black running 12 H 5 mm inside the edge and parallel with it, and contain the letters LQ as shown in figure xx.

Fig xx



Background white. The letters LQ in black.

The letters LQ should be about 75 mm in height and about 15 mm thick."

4. Add a note to figure xx as follows:

"The letter "LQ" are an acronym for the English words "Limited Quantities".

Consequential amendments

5. The existing paragraph 5.3.1.2.2 should be renumbered 5.3.1.2.3.
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