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

**(Twenty-first session,
4-13 December 2000,
agenda items 3 and 4 (c))**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS 1999/62 AND 1999/65
OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

Note by the secretariat

1. For ease of reference, the secretariat reproduces hereunder resolutions 1999/62 and 1999/65 adopted by the Council on 30 July 1999 and 26 October 1999.
2. The Committee will be orally informed of relevant developments with respect to the implementation of these resolutions.
3. For operative paragraph 5 of resolution 1999/62, governmental experts and observers and representatives of intergovernmental organizations may also wish to provide the secretariat, prior to the session, with information concerning the implementation of the 11th edition of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations, through international instruments or national legislation.
4. For operative paragraph 3 of resolution 1999/65, the Committee may wish to note that, as of 25 September 2000, no application for membership in the new Sub-Committee on the Globally Harmonized of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) has been received by the secretariat of the Committee. The Committee may wish to note that a letter (ref: DESA/00/269) was sent by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations, in New York, requesting that applications for membership in the Sub-Committee of Experts on GHS be sent directly to the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe as soon as possible and not later than 31 December 2000.

Annex 1

1999/62

Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1995/6 of 19 July 1995 and 1997/3 of 18 July 1997,

Bearing in mind the increasing volume of dangerous goods in worldwide commerce and the rapid expansion of technology and innovation,

Bearing also in mind the continuing need to meet the growing concern for the protection of life, property and the environment through the safe transport of dangerous goods, while facilitating trade,

Aware that, in order to achieve internationally harmonized laws, the Economic Commission for Europe, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Maritime Organization and other specialized agencies and international organizations involved in activities related to the transport of dangerous goods and interested Member States have responded positively to the Council's various resolutions adopted since 15 April 1953, and that, being committed to taking the recommendations of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods as a basis for the formulation of their requirements and regulations, including those concerning labelling and classification, those organizations therefore rely on the work of the Committee,

A. Work of the Committee of Experts during the biennium 1997–1998

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods during the biennium 1997–1998,¹⁷⁹ in particular regarding:

(a) The adoption of new and amended provisions¹⁸⁰ for inclusion in the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods*;¹⁸¹

(b) The completion of the second step in the reformatting of the existing *Recommendations* into model regulations annexed to a basic recommendation,¹⁸⁰ in particular:

(i) The revision of provisions for the transport of dangerous goods in multimodal portable tanks;

(ii) The inclusion of detailed packing instructions for transport in packagings, including intermediate bulk containers and large packagings;

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E/1999/43.

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See ST/SG/AC.10/25 and Add.1–4.

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United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.VIII.1.

(iii) The inclusion, in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency, of detailed provisions for the transport of radioactive material;

(c) The completion, pursuant to resolution 1995/6, of proposals for criteria for the classification of flammable, explosive and reactive materials, except for flammable aerosols, globally harmonized for various regulatory purposes,¹⁸² in cooperation with the International Labour Organization in the context of the implementation of chapter 19 of Agenda 21;¹⁸³

2. *Commends* the Secretary-General for the publication of the tenth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods*,¹⁸¹ in all the official languages of the United Nations, and for the publication of the second revised edition of the *Manual of Tests and Criteria* in Arabic and Chinese;¹⁸⁴

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To circulate the new and amended recommendations to the Governments of Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international organizations concerned;

(b) To publish an eleventh revised version of the *Recommendations*, as amended,¹⁸⁵ and a third revised edition of the *Manual of Tests and Criteria*,¹⁸⁶ in all the official languages of the United Nations, in the most cost-effective manner, not later than the end of 1999;

(c) To envisage means of publishing the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods* on CD-ROM, if possible as a navigable version — that is, by commercial arrangement with external contractors;

4. *Invites* all Governments, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the other international organizations concerned to transmit to the Secretary-General their views on the Committee's work, together with any comments that they may wish to make on the amended recommendations;

5. *Invites* all interested Governments, regional commissions and specialized agencies and the international organizations concerned, when developing or updating appropriate codes and regulations, to take full account of the recommendations of the Committee, particularly those referred to in paragraph 1 (b) above, including the structure and format of such codes and regulations;

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See ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/28/Add.3.

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See Report of the *United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

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United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.VIII.2.

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ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.11.

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ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.3.

B. Programme of work for the biennium 1999–2000

6. *Approves* the programme of work¹⁸⁷ of the Committee and its Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods for the biennium 1999–2000, as follows:

(a) Development of provisions for the transport of gases in gas cylinders and multiple-element gas containers;

(b) Review of provisions concerning documentation on the transport of dangerous goods;

(c) Follow-up to chapter 19 of Agenda 21 (Harmonization of classification and labelling of chemicals),¹⁸³ including development of criteria for the classification of flammable aerosols, in cooperation with the International Labour Organization, and implementation of already agreed criteria through the model regulations on the transport of dangerous goods;

(d) Miscellaneous amendments to the model regulations (listing and classification, explosives, lithium batteries, limited quantities, packaging issues, portable tank issues, consignment procedures, segregation) and to the *Manual of Tests and Criteria*;¹⁸⁴

(e) Development of new provisions for the transport of solid substances in bulk in tanks and freight containers;

(f) Evolution of the model regulations (rationalized development of the model regulations and periodicity of amendments);

C. Periodicity of amendments to the Recommendations

7. *Takes note* of the advice of the Committee that:

(a) No firm decision as regards a possible future four-year periodicity of amendments should be taken during the period of alignment of the format of the various legal instruments concerning modal aspects of the transport of dangerous goods on that of the model regulations, and pending decisions regarding the implementation of the globally harmonized system of classification and labelling of chemicals in accordance with the objectives of Agenda 21;

(b) A new revised version of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods*¹⁸¹ should be published in 2001 after the session of the Committee in 2000;

8. *Notes with satisfaction* that this issue has been included in the programme of work of the Committee for the next biennium, for discussion, together with the question of the evolution of the model regulations in the long term;

D. Report to the Council

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Council in 2001 on the implementation of the present resolution.

*46th plenary meeting
30 July 1999*

Annex 2

1999/65

Reconfiguration of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods into a Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1995/6 of 19 July 1995 on the role of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods in the development of a harmonized system of classification and labelling of chemicals for implementing the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development contained in chapter 19 of Agenda 21,¹

Recalling also its resolution 1997/3 B of 18 July 1997 whereby global harmonization of systems of classification and labelling of chemicals, *inter alia*, was given priority in the work programme of the Committee for the biennium 1997-1998,

Noting with satisfaction that the Committee, in cooperation with the International Labour Organization, has completed the elaboration of proposals for classification criteria concerning physical hazards,² except for the flammability of aerosols, on which work will continue into the next biennium,

Aware that the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, as focal point for health hazards and hazards to the environment, has also completed most of its tasks with respect to the classification criteria and has established a working group for criteria on mixtures, and that the International Labour Organization has established a working group for harmonization of chemical hazard communication systems,

Aware also that the Committee, the International Labour Organization and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, as focal points designated by the Coordinating Group for the Harmonization of Chemical Classification Systems of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, are expected to make available, through their cooperative efforts, by the year 2000, a globally harmonized hazard classification and compatible labelling system, including material safety data sheets and easily understandable symbols, in accordance with the objectives of paragraph 19.27 of chapter 19 of Agenda 21,

¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

² See ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/28/Add.3.

Noting that the Coordinating Group has prepared proposals for the implementation of the globally harmonized system,³ consisting in reconfiguring the present Committee of Experts and extending its mandate to cover not only transport of dangerous goods but also implementation and updating of the globally harmonized system,

Noting also that those proposals were endorsed by the Inter-sessional Group of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, at its third meeting (Yokohama, Japan, 1-4 December 1998), which requested the Coordinating Group to develop draft terms of reference, in cooperation with the Committee,

Noting further that the Committee agreed to the proposals of the Coordinating Group, subject to certain conditions,⁴ and that draft terms of reference have been developed, accordingly, by the Coordinating Group,

Recognizing that reconfiguring the Committee in accordance with those proposals would be the most cost-effective and efficient option⁵ for the implementation of the globally harmonized system, ensuring at the same time cooperation between various authorities and organizations concerned with the sound management of chemicals, harmonization between various regulatory systems and facilitation of trade,

1. *Decides* to reconfigure, as from 2001, the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and its Subcommittee into a Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, with one Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and a second Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, with terms of reference and arrangements as described in the annex below, and provided that the total meeting time does not exceed that currently allocated to the work of the Committee in a biennium;

2. *Invites* the reconfigured Committee and the Subcommittee on the Globally Harmonized System to endeavour, whenever possible, to work on a consensus basis;

3. *Invites* Member States interested in participating in the Subcommittee on the Globally Harmonized System to apply for membership at the latest by the end of 2000 so that the composition of the Subcommittee and of the reconfigured Committee may be decided at the organizational session for 2001 of the Economic and Social Council;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide, not later than 1 January 2001, adequate resources to the Transport Division of the Economic Commission for Europe and plan sessions of the Subcommittees and the reconfigured Committee for 2001 and 2002, as appropriate, in accordance with the arrangements outlined in the annex below.

³ See ST/SG/AC.10/1998/51.

⁴ See E/1999/43, para. 21.

⁵ See ST/SG/AC.10/1998/51, annex, for various institutional options envisaged.

Annex

Draft terms of reference and working arrangements for 2001-2002 of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and its Subcommittees

1. Draft terms of reference

1.1 Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

The reconfigured Committee shall deal with strategic issues rather than technical issues. It is not envisaged that it will review, change or revisit technical recommendations of the Subcommittees. Accordingly, its main functions shall be to:

- (a) Approve the work programmes for the Subcommittees in the light of available resources;
- (b) Coordinate strategic and policy directions in areas of shared interests and overlap;
- (c) Give formal endorsement to the recommendations of the Subcommittees and provide the mechanism for channelling them to the Economic and Social Council;
- (d) Facilitate and coordinate the smooth running of the Subcommittees.

1.2 Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

The functions of the Subcommittee shall be to:

- (a) Act as custodian of the globally harmonized system of classification and labelling of chemicals, managing and giving direction to the harmonization process;
- (b) Keep the system up to date, as necessary, considering the need to introduce changes to ensure its continued relevance and practical utility, and determining the need for and timing of the updating of technical criteria, while working with existing bodies, as appropriate;
- (c) Promote understanding and use of the system and encourage feedback;
- (d) Make the system available for worldwide use and application;
- (e) Make guidance available on the application of the system, and on the interpretation and use of technical criteria to support consistency of application;
- (f) Prepare work programmes and submit recommendations to the Committee.

1.3 Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

The Subcommittee replaces the existing Committee on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and its Subcommittee with the same terms of reference.⁶

2. Working arrangements for 2001-2002

The total number of meeting days shall not exceed that currently allocated to the Committee of Experts and its Subcommittee, namely, thirty-eight, with a maximum of three days for the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods/Globally Harmonized System and ten days for the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System (to be arranged by the secretariat after consultation with the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods/Globally Harmonized System and the Coordinating Group for the Harmonization of Chemical Classification Systems of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals).

*48th plenary meeting
26 October 1999*

⁶

E/1996/97, paras. 166-175.
