

Sub-Committee of Experts on the
Transport of Dangerous Goods
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TRANSPORT OF INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES

Chapter 5.5 – Special provisions

Special provisions applicable to consignment of infectious substances

Transmitted by the expert from Australia

Introduction

The UN Model Regulations currently require that the consignor notify the consignee of transport details in advance, for infectious substances - 5.5.1.2(d). This information must include means of transport, flight or train numbers, transport document number and date or hour of expected arrival.

While such arrangements may be good management practice, especially for perishable substances, it is in many circumstances impossible to comply with these requirements, notably for international consignments.

As well, the Australian Civil Aviation Safety Authority has advised that for security reasons, consignors are not given the exact flight details by airlines.

We believe that it is unnecessary to mandate these advance notification details, which could simply retained as a note or a recommendation in the Models Regulations. Retention of 5.5.1.2(d) as a note or recommendation would provide guidance as to good transport practice whilst removing the need for Competent Authorities to exempt consignors on occasion from this prescriptive requirement.

We believe that a similar argument can be mounted for the entire 5.5.1.2 which either could be retained as a note, or amended to make it a recommendation rather than a mandatory requirement.

Proposal

5.5.1.2 The transport of infectious substances requires co-ordinated action by the consignor, the carrier and the consignee to ensure safety and arrival on time and in proper condition. To this end, the following measures ~~shall be taken~~ are recommended.

- (a) *Advance arrangements between consignor, carrier and consignee.* Dispatch of infectious substances ~~shall not take place before~~ should occur after advance arrangements have been made between consignor, carrier and consignee or before the consignee has confirmed with his competent authorities that the substances can legally be imported and that no delay will be incurred in the delivery of the consignment to its

destination;

.../2.

- (b) *Preparation of dispatch documents.* In order to secure transmission without hindrance it is necessary to prepare all dispatch documents, including the transport document (see Chapter 5.4), in strict accordance with rules governing the acceptance of the goods to be dispatched;
- (c) *Routing.* Whatever the mode used, transport ~~shall~~should-be by the quickest possible routing. If transshipment is necessary, precautions ~~shall~~should-be taken to ensure special care, expeditious handling and monitoring of the substances in transit;
- (d) *Timely notification of all transport data by consignor to consignee.* The consignor ~~shall~~should attempt to notify the consignee in advance of transport details, such as: means of transport, ~~flight or train number(s)~~ transport document number and date and hour of expected arrival at the point of destination, so that the consignment can be collected promptly. The most rapid means of communication ~~shall~~should-be used for this notification.
