

## 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  
(Twenty-second session, 2-6 December 2002,  
Agenda item 4(b)(ii))

### NEW PROPOSALS

#### Transport of Infectious Substances

#### Transmitted by the World Health Organization

#### Background

1. On several occasions, the attention of WHO was raised to the fact that guidance for emergency responses should be provided.
2. Discussions at the recent WHO Biosafety Advisory Group meeting helped WHO define its position that it should be the responsibility of the carriers to make sure an emergency response mechanism is put in place to deal with incidents, e.g. spillages. Advice on emergency response mechanisms could be sought through WHO guidelines or other appropriate means.

#### Proposal

7.1.6.2 Amend to read as follows:

#### *Division 6.2 infectious substances*

7.1.6.2.1 Responsibility of carrier

Carriers and their staff shall fully understand all applicable regulations for the packing, labelling, transport and documentation of consignments of infectious substances. The carrier shall accept and expedite the transport of consignments conforming to the rules in force. If the carrier finds an error in the labelling or documentation, he shall immediately notify the consignor or consignee so that the appropriate corrective measures may be taken. [Carriers should develop an emergency response mechanism to deal with incidents such as damage or leakage of packages containing infectious substances.](#)

7.1.6.2.2 Action to be taken in the event of damage or leakage

Any [person-carrier or their staff](#) responsible for the carriage of packages containing infectious substances who becomes aware of damage to or leakage from such packages shall:

- (a) [Avoid handling the package or keep handling to a minimum. Activate the emergency response in place to deal with incidents;](#)
- (b) [Inspect adjacent packages for contamination and put aside any that may have been contaminated; Notify the consignor and/or the consignee;](#)

- (c) Inform the appropriate public health authority or veterinary authority, and provide information on any other countries of transit where persons may have been exposed to danger; ~~and~~.
- (d) ~~Notify the consignor and/or the consignee.~~

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