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**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-eighth session, 28 November-7 December 2005  
Item 3 (c) of the provisional agenda

PACKAGINGS

Miscellaneous proposals

Stencilling of the UN Mark

Transmitted by the Dangerous Goods Advisory Council (DGAC)

**Introduction**

1. Paragraph 6.1.3.1(a) illustrates the manner in which the United Nations packaging symbol should appear on a package. In the illustration, the circle surrounding the letters “UN” is continuous. The same paragraph also allows the letters “UN” without the circle in the case of embossed metal packagings. At least one competent authority has ruled that in cases of package marking techniques other than embossing only a continuous circle is acceptable.
2. Besides embossing, there are several techniques packaging manufacturers employ to produce a durable mark on a UN certified packaging. A common method is to use a stencil for the UN symbol and other required information. By its nature, a stencil leaves small gaps in certain symbols, letters and numbers. Viewed from a short distance away, however, these gaps are hardly discernible and the overall effect is complete legibility of the information displayed. Examples of stencilled UN package markings are shown below.
3. To eliminate the gaps left from stencilling, a second manual step is necessary to fill the gaps. This action incurs additional expense, can result in a less clear marking and adds no additional safety benefit.
4. This paper proposes an amendment to paragraph 6.1.3.1 to allow small gaps resulting from applying the UN package marking by stencilling.

**Proposal**

5. DGAC proposes to amend paragraph 6.1.3.1 by adding the following text:

“When stencilling is used to apply the marking, including the symbol, small gaps necessary for its application are permitted.”

