

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

Thirtieth session
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Item 4 of the provisional agenda

STANDARDIZATION OF EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

Transmitted by the International Association of Fire and Rescue Services (CTIF)

At its 20th meeting the Sub-Committee agreed that UIC, CTIF, CEFIC and IRU could present an analysis of existing systems for initial emergency response to incidents involving dangerous goods with a view to harmonizing the various systems. The UIC subsequently presented a paper to the 21st meeting setting out the current systems in tabular form.

At the 22nd meeting of the Sub-Committee the UIC/IRU asked for this work to be included in the 2003/04 work programme (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2002/72). This was supported by CTIF (UN/SCETDG/22/INF.27) and the Sub-Committee subsequently agreed to include it in its work programme on condition that the work would be based on the North American Emergency Response Guides.

CTIF submitted a further information paper (UN/SCETDG/24/INF.14) to the 24th meeting in December 2003 expressing the view that, although harmonization of information systems would be difficult to achieve, the harmonization of the rationale behind the different information systems could be achieved in an acceptable time frame.

CTIF therefore sought the cooperation of various organisations to take this work further and engaged with Transport Canada / CANUTEC - (acting on behalf of those who prepared the Emergency Response Guidebook) to undertake an in-depth analysis of CTIF's proposed emergency action codes against the emergency response guides. As this would not be a straightforward task, CTIF reported that the analysis of the data would not be completed during the 2003/04 sessions of the Sub-Committee but nevertheless undertook to keep the Sub-Committee informed of developments.

CTIF and CANUTEC have now completed a full analysis of emergency response guides and CTIF's proposed emergency action codes. Recognising that the two systems serve slightly different purposes, it was noted that there were no significant conflicts between actions recommended in the two systems and both systems were seen to be appropriate for their specific purposes. Both systems had their merits and, in the view of some countries, a combination of the two systems provided the most effective first response support tool for dealing with incidents involving dangerous goods in transport.

The Sub-Committee is asked to note these conclusions.
