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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 CLASSIFICATION

Sub-Committee of Experts on the
Transport of Dangerous Goods

Thirtieth session
Geneva, 4-12 (a.m.) December 2006

IAEA-UN Working Group on Harmonization

Transmitted by the IAEA

Background

At its 12th meeting the IAEA Transport Safety Standard Committee (TRANSSC) was briefed of efforts of the Secretariat with UN on the issue harmonization of the IAEA Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material with the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods – Model Regulations. Conclusions from the harmonization consultancy meeting held in Vienna in February 2006 were reported and proposals for changes in the IAEA Transport Regulations as well. In view of the new features contained in the report and because of the length of the document provided by the Secretariat, it was felt by TRANSSC that more time would be required to study the report from the consultancy before implementing the recommendations.

TRANSSC, at its 13th Meeting, discussed the conclusions, proposals for change and recommendations from the harmonization consultancy and requested Secretariat to provide - for the next meeting/March 2007 - a redline-strikeout draft of the IAEA Transport Regulations with the changes identified by the consultancy meeting as necessary for the harmonization and changes approved by the 2004-5 review-revision cycle. TRANSSC 13th also recommended the continuation of coordination between IAEA and the UN.

Resolution GC(50)/L.5 (The IAEA General Conference, September 2006) addresses harmonization and requests the Secretariat to develop a dialogue with the United Nations leading to the establishment of a process in which language differences between IAEA and UN Model Regulations may be reconciled.

During the 29th Session of the UN Sub Committee of Experts on Transport of Dangerous Goods experts considered the proposals for amendment to the UN Model Regulations made by the IAEA Consultants Meeting on UN/IAEA harmonization, the UN Sub-Committee felt that their concerns were mainly the lay-out of the provisions concerning Class 7, but did not affect the substance. Therefore it was decided to adopt these amendments, subject to changes proposed in the report of the meeting report given in WP08 and in annex 1 of an informal document INF.40 submitted by WNTI.

Finally, the issue Harmonization is identified by the IAEA Secretariat as important enough to warrant the publication of the 2009 Edition of the IAEA Transport Regulations. Secretariat has proposed and

TRANSSC approved that the review of the current edition of IAEA Transport Regulations will be on the basis of harmonization.

Working Group on Harmonization

Having harmonization of regulations as the background for the review on current edition of the IAEA Transport Regulations and in order to implement the Resolution GC(50)/L.5, the Secretariat proposes that the consultants group who met in February 2006 (the so called working group on harmonization) continues to meet and discuss harmonization issues. A potential list of topics to be discussed is as follows:

- provision applicable to competent authorities;
- precedence of classes;
- differences in terminology from one modal to another;
- training; emergency response

A list of actions to be implemented can be as follow:

- development and adoption of Terms of Reference;
- establishment of a form of communication among international experts/consultants;
- development and integration of packing instruction for Class 7 material; using or not future TS-G-1.6 (Schedules) for this integration;
- revision and proposal to restructure section IV of IAEA Transport Regulations;
- identification of further steps on the harmonization process by which IAEA and UN Regulations could progressively move to a full harmonized structure;
- address newly identified issues;

Conclusion

The International Atomic Energy Agency and UN Economic Commission for Europe continue their cooperation on establishing a process by which IAEA and UN Model Regulations could continuously move to a fully harmonized structure. The IAEA General Conference Resolution addresses harmonization and requested the continuation of work.

The UN Sub committee is requested to support the continuation of this work and to provide comments and recommendation on future steps.
