



Secretariat

Distr.
GENERAL

ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2008/92
16 September 2008

Original: ENGLISH

**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

Thirty-fourth session
Geneva, 1-9 December 2008
Item 4 of the provisional agenda

LISTING, CLASSIFICATION AND PACKING

Special Provision for UN 3200 – Pyrophoric solid, inorganic N.O.S.

Transmitted by the expert from the United Kingdom¹

1. Division 4.2 (substances liable to spontaneous combustion) has no entries for articles containing or coated with pyrophoric materials. These materials are used for various purposes and can be applied to and used in articles. One example of such articles is in the field of security; pyrophoric materials are used for providing countermeasures against heat seeking guided missiles. The pyrophoric coated fabric material can be distributed from an aircraft as a decoy against a missile attack. These systems have not only been developed for military purposes but also for civil aircraft which have been targeted by terrorists.

2. The pyrophoric substance used on the fabric meets the criteria for assignment to packing group I of UN 3200 (pyrophoric solid, inorganic N.O.S). The coated fabric (referred to as “leaves”) is sealed within an oxygen barrier laminate film and then placed inside a cartridge which in turn is placed in either a metal tubular magazine or a metal box. The boxes or tubular magazines are then placed in strong outer packagings (see photographs at Annex. The packagings can have a gross mass of 25kg but the total quantity of leaves coated with pyrophoric substance will not exceed 650g. per outer packaging.

¹ In accordance with the programme of work of the Sub-Committee for 2007-2008 approved by the Committee at its third session (refer to ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/60, para. 100 and ST/SG/AC.10/34, para. 14).

3. The coated fabric will only activate when fired from the magazine (see the photograph at Annex into a high airflow environment where the material is rapidly oxidized. In the event that a package containing such articles were to be damaged in normal conditions of transport, the substance would decompose but not catch fire as there would be insufficient airflow to oxidize. In addition, as the pyrophoric substance is placed in metal boxes or tubes, this would further reduce the fire risk.

4. These articles will be fitted to civil aircraft and will need to be renewed from time to time. The shelf life for these articles is around three years. They will therefore need to be transported to various destinations to be refitted.

5. It is the view of the expert from the United Kingdom that these articles pose little risk in transport. It is proposed, therefore, that given the importance of their intended use a new Special Provision is assigned to this substance, as set out below.

Proposal

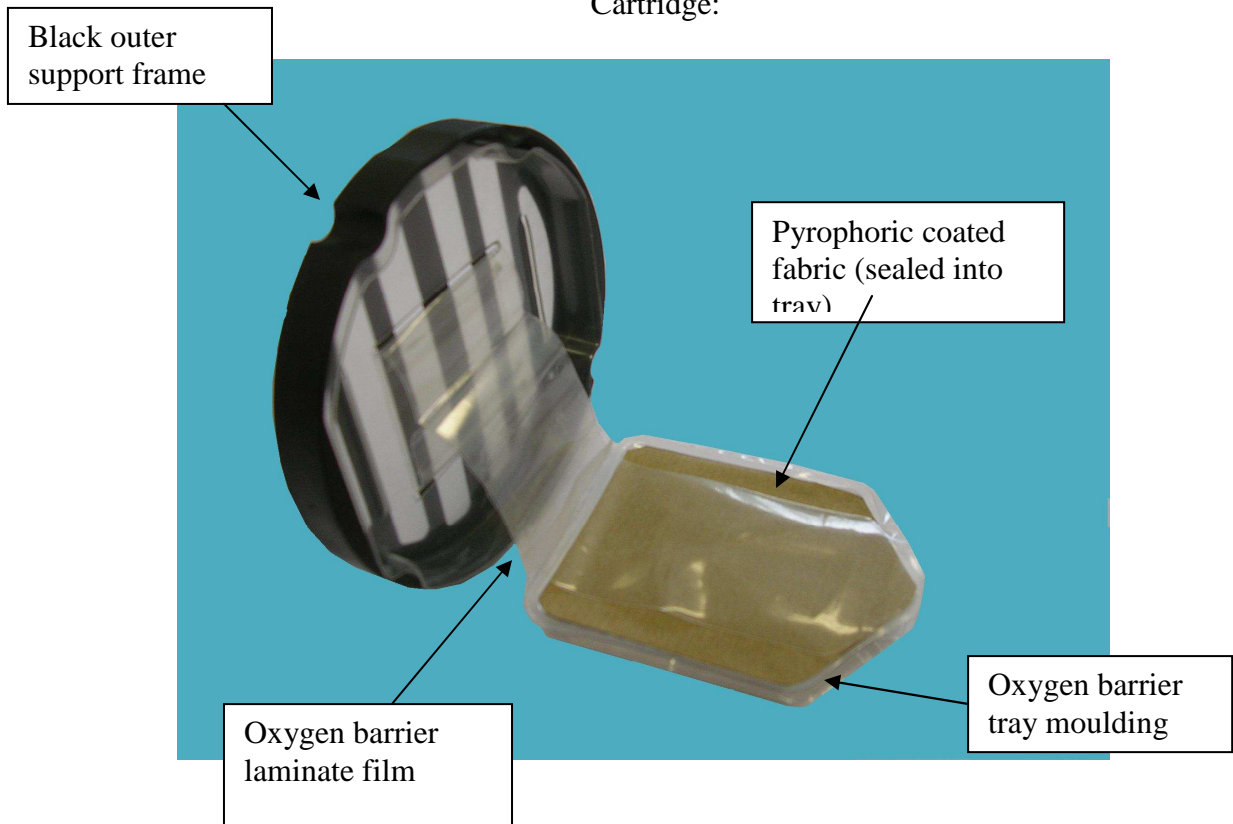
6. Add a new Special Provision XXX to read as follows:

XXX Cartridges containing not more than 13.5g of fabric coated with UN 3200 sealed in oxygen barrier film and with not more than 650 g of fabric coated with UN 3200 per outer packaging may be transported in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 3.5 irrespective of the indication of E0 in column 7 a) of the Dangerous Goods List provided that in addition to the packaging required by 3.5.2 each cartridge is sealed in a magazine or metal box and then placed in a plastics bag compatible with the product.

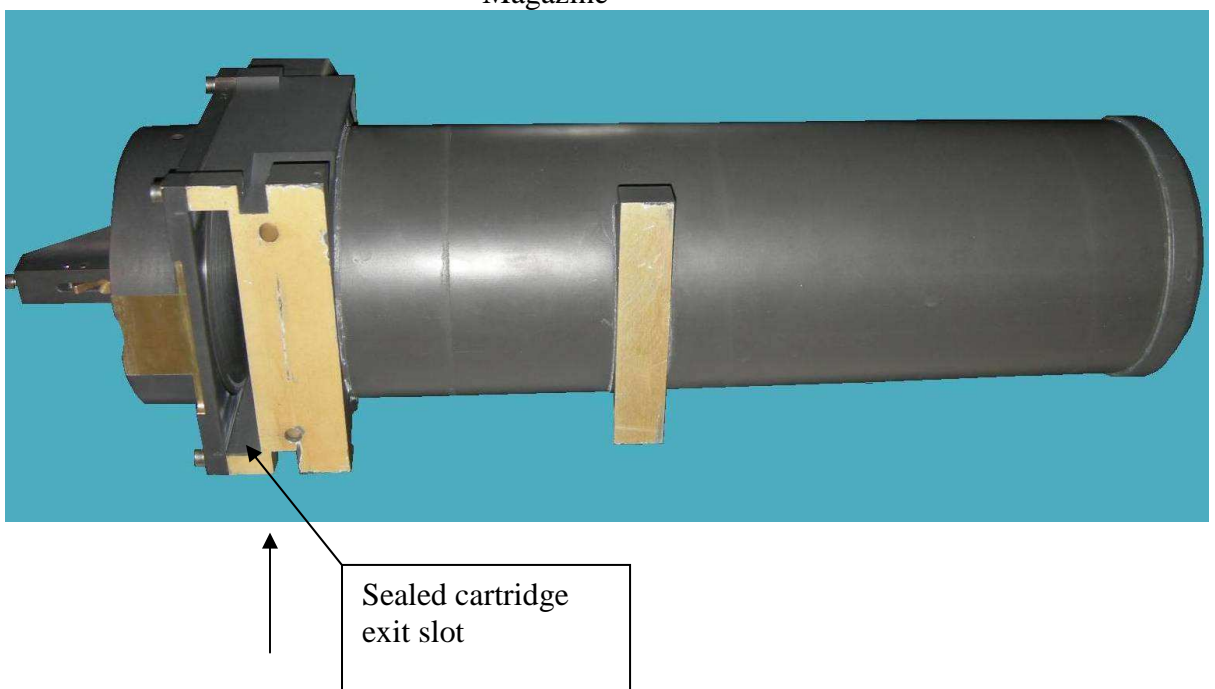
In the Dangerous Goods List in Chapter 3.2 for UN 3200 PYROPHORIC SOLID, INORGANIC N.O.S add in column (6) "XXX"

Annex

Cartridge:



Magazine



Cartridge images:



Outer packaging for magazines or cartridges.