

## 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

17 June 2014

### Forty-fifth session

Geneva, 23 June – 2 July 2014

Item 12 of the provisional agenda

### Other business

## Availability of information on UN approved packagings

### Transmitted by the expert from Belgium

1. At the last session (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/88, paras 71-73), several experts shared the Belgian expert's concern, expressed in document ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2013/63, at the irregularities in, or forgery of, certification of "UN" packagings, and the difficulty of obtaining information on the approval of such packagings, or their test reports, when they come from abroad. The expert from Belgium recommended following the example of some countries that had taken the initiative of making information on certificates for "UN" packagings easily available to the public or at least to ensure their availability to the competent authorities and communication between the competent authorities of the various countries.

2. Some experts were in favour of this proposal, but others had certain reservations about their ability to set up adequate databases in their countries or to make this information available to the public. They would rather that these problems were resolved bilaterally between the competent authorities of the countries concerned.

3. It was pointed out, however, that the contact details of the authorities competent to authorize "UN" markings on behalf of a given country were not known in all countries and it was suggested that the secretariat first try to obtain those details. To that end the Sub-Committee requested the expert from Belgium to prepare a draft resolution for the next session, and that would have to be proposed to the Economic and Social Council in the next biennial report in order to allow the secretariat to take the necessary steps to obtain that information at the global level.

4. The last resolution adopted by ECOSOC was resolution 2013/25 of 25 July 2013, see <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/doc/2013/dgac10c3/UN-SCETDG-44-INF17e.pdf>. The resolutions concerning the work of the Committee have been traditionally divided in three parts A, B and C since the mandate of the Committee was extended to GHS issues, and the contents of the resolution is updated every two years but without many substantive changes.

5. Nevertheless, preparing an additional resolution would imply developing additional explanatory text on issues that may be too technical for consideration by the Council, and therefore, after consultation of the secretariat on the best way how to proceed, the expert from Belgium proposes to insert relevant text in the "general" draft resolution which is traditionally submitted by the Committee to ECOSOC for adoption.

## Proposal

6 The expert from Belgium proposes to insert a new section B in the draft resolution, as drafted below. Sections B and C would become sections C and D, unless other substantive changes had to be made.

### **B Mutual administrative support for monitoring compliance of “UN” marked containment systems with the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations**

*Noting with satisfaction* that, due the effective implementation of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods through national, regional and international legally binding instruments, as described in paragraph ... of the report of the Secretary-General, dangerous goods which are moved internationally have to be contained in packagings, containers and tanks bearing a “UN” mark certifying that they correspond to a design type that has been successfully tested under control of the competent authority of the State authorizing the allocation of the mark;

*Noting with concern* that irregularities in, or forgery of, certification of “UN” packagings have been observed in international transport, leading to the use of packagings that do not meet the required performance level and increasing the risk of dramatic accidents that would affect the public, workers, means of transport, properties and environment;

*Recalling* the basic principle laid down by the Committee that “The competent authority should ensure compliance with these Regulations. Means to discharge this responsibility include the establishment and execution of a programme for monitoring the design, manufacture, testing, inspection and maintenance of packaging, the classification of dangerous goods and the preparation, documentation, handling and stowage of packages by consignors and carriers, to provide evidence that the provisions of the Model Regulations are being met in practice.”;

*Recognizing* that mutual administrative assistance between competent authorities of countries concerned would facilitate investigations and improve compliance assurance, but is currently prevented due to lack of information on contact details of competent authorities at worldwide level;

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General
  - (a) To seek information from all member States of the United Nations, and other States if appropriate, on the contact details of
    - (i) The competent authorities responsible for national regulations applicable to transport of dangerous goods by modes of transport other than by air or by sea;
    - (ii) The competent authorities allowing, in the name of the State, the allocation of the “UN” mark on packagings, pressure receptacles, bulk containers and portable tanks;
  - (b) To develop and maintain up-to-date the lists of contact details;
  - (c) To make this information available on the website of the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe which provides secretariat services to the Committee;
2. *Invites* all member States to provide the requested information.