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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****Sixtieth session**

Geneva, 27 June-6 July 2022

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**Listing, classification and packing****Assignment of packing groups to articles****Transmitted by the experts from Germany and Spain\*****Introduction**

1. At the fifty-ninth session of the Sub-Committee, Spain presented informal document INF.7 (59<sup>th</sup> session). In that document, the assignment of packing groups to articles was analyzed.
2. In 2012, the Sub-Committee decided to delete the packing groups assigned to all articles in the Dangerous Goods List, and additionally introduced text into 2.0.1.3 and the Guiding Principles specifying this rule. Nevertheless, the Model Regulations still retain a packing group for some UN numbers, and this is understood as a contradiction to the principle expressed in 2.0.1.3.
3. Spain presented two different ways forward to solve this situation, modifying the general rule stating that no packing groups were to be assigned to articles or the modification of the entries for the remaining UN numbers.
4. The Sub-Committee noted general support and a preference for option 2 on the elimination of packing groups for the second entry to UN 2870 and UN 3165 as proposed in informal document INF.7 (see paragraph 31 of the report ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/118).
5. This document takes into account the comments received, including the analysis of other UN numbers applying to articles that still have a packing group assigned.

**Analysis of articles with packing group assigned**

6. Currently, 2.0.1.3 explicitly indicates that articles are not assigned to packing groups, and that requirements for packaging performance level are set out in the applicable packing instruction.

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\* A/75/6 (Sect.20), para. 20.51

7. The assignment of a packing group to specific UN numbers referring to articles is a contradiction to the principle expressed in 2.0.1.3. Having contradictory statements in a regulation is the source of misunderstandings and errors in its application. Therefore, the experts from Germany and Spain suggest eliminating those.

8. Contradictions to the principle expressed in 2.0.1.3 are found mainly in the treatment to specific UN numbers, but also in the introductory text of 3.2.1.

9. In the explanation of column 5 in 3.2.1 articles are named together with substances as elements to which packing groups can be applied; this reference should be deleted (see proposal 1).

10. The different UN numbers referring to articles that still have a packing group assigned were analyzed, to see on a case-by-case basis if amendments were needed when eliminating the packing group from column (5) of the Dangerous Goods List for these UN numbers (see proposal 2). When doing so, the definition for “article” contained under 2.0.5.1 (“... *“article” means machinery, apparatus or other devices containing one or more dangerous goods (or residues thereof) that are an integral element of the article, necessary for its functioning and that cannot be removed for the purposes of transport.*”), even if only applicable to section 2.0.5, has served as guidance when deciding which UN numbers should be considered an article.

#### **UN 2028 BOMBS, SMOKE, NON-EXPLOSIVE with corrosive liquid, without initiating device**

11. For UN 2028 BOMBS, SMOKE, NON-EXPLOSIVE with corrosive liquid, without initiating device, packing instruction P803 is applicable (and only applicable to this entry). It would be possible to include a phrase similar than those included to other packing instructions reading “Packagings shall conform to the packing group II performance level.” (see proposal 3).

#### **UN 2870 ALUMINIUM BOROHYDRIDE IN DEVICES**

12. For UN 2870 ALUMINIUM BOROHYDRIDE IN DEVICES (second entry to UN 2870), no further amendments would be needed, as special packing provision PP13 applicable to packing instruction P002 for UN 2870 already states “... only combination packagings meeting the packing group I performance level are authorized”.

#### **UN 3165 AIRCRAFT HYDRAULIC UNIT FUEL TANK**

13. For UN 3165 AIRCRAFT HYDRAULIC UNIT FUEL TANK, packing instruction P301 is applicable (and only applicable to this entry). This packing instruction is very specific and describes two alternative packagings for this UN number.

14. The packaging is defined completely in packing instruction P301 and does not really need a reference to a packing group to define its characteristics. Therefore, it does not seem necessary to include a text similar to “Packagings shall conform to the packing group I performance level.” into this packing instruction.

15. Including an explicit reference to a packing group here may lead to suggest that the packaging as described in P301 (1) or (2) may additionally be packed into a packaging tested and marked for packing group I, which in principle seems unnecessary.

16. Nevertheless, this idea of needing an additional packaging to the one defined in P301 (1) or (2) is also suggested by asking for the general provisions of 4.1.1 and 4.1.3 to be met, as 4.1.1.3 asks for packagings tested and marked according to the applicable paragraphs.

17. The general provisions of 4.1.1 and 4.1.3 are applied for all packing instructions except those for gases and P801, P904 and P907. The last three packing provisions define a specific packaging in the packing instruction itself, and only refer to some paragraphs of section 4.1.1. This same situation should also be the case for P301, making only 4.1.1.1, 4.1.1.2, 4.1.1.4, 4.1.1.5 and 4.1.1.6 applicable (see proposal 4).

## Proposals

18. The amendments proposed below are needed on one hand side to the general text (descriptive text under 3.2.1) and on the other hand side to specific UN numbers (new text is underlined, deleted text in ~~striketrough~~).

**Proposal 1:** Amend the descriptive text for column 5 in 3.2.1 as follows:

“Column 5 “UN packing group” - this column contains the UN packing group number (i.e. I, II or III) assigned to the ~~article or~~ substance. If more than one packing group is indicated for the entry, the packing group of the substance or formulation to be transported shall be determined, based on its properties, through application of the hazard grouping criteria as provided in Part 2.”

**Proposal 2:** Elimination of packing groups for UN 2028, UN 2870 (second entry) and UN 3165:

Amend in 3.2.2 Dangerous Goods List for UN 2028, UN 2870 (second entry) and UN 3165 by deleting the packing group in column (5).

**Proposal 3:** In 4.1.4.1 amend P803, applicable for UN 2028 BOMBS, SMOKE, NON-EXPLOSIVE with corrosive liquid, without initiating device, by adding the following sentence at the end of the packing instruction:

“Packagings shall conform to the packing group II performance level.”

**Proposal 4:** In 4.1.4.1 amend P301, applicable for UN 3165 AIRCRAFT HYDRAULIC UNIT FUEL TANK only, by modifying the first sentence of the packing instruction as follows:

“The following packagings are authorized, provided that the general provisions of ~~4.1.1~~ 4.1.1.1, 4.1.1.2, 4.1.1.4, 4.1.1.5, 4.1.1.6 and 4.1.3 are met:”