

Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

6 July 2022

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

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Item 2 (i) of the provisional agenda

Work on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals: other matters

Minor amendments to the changes proposed for desensitized explosives

Transmitted by the experts from Germany and the United States of America¹

1. The informal documents on desensitized explosives INF.8 (42nd session) and INF.18 (42nd session) INF.36 (60th session) were discussed in the working group on explosives and in the Sub-Committee TDG. The report of the working group on explosives is available in informal document INF.44 (60th session) at the TDG-website, see paragraph 18. The authors are grateful for the expertise and advice provided by the experts of the Sub-Committee TDG.
2. The according assessments result in three (minor) amendments to the proposals for desensitized explosives. The authors of the proposal thought it would be easier for the experts of the Sub-Committee if they are available to them in writing clearly displaying the amendments recommended by the EWG and the Sub-Committee TDG.
3. One amendment concerns 2.17.2.3 in the Annex of informal document INF.8 (42nd session). This amendment shall ensure that it is unambiguously clear that the stability tests in Appendix 10 of the Manual of Tests and Criteria apply to the nitrocellulose itself and not the nitrocellulose mixture. Amendments shown in the following are in comparison to the text proposed in informal document INF.8 (42nd session).

2.17.2.3 In addition to the criteria in sections 2.17.2.1 and 2.17.2.2, nitrocellulose should be stable according to Appendix 10 of the <i>Manual of Tests and Criteria</i> in order to be used in nitrocellulose mixtures considered for this class should be stable according to Appendix 10 of the <i>Manual of Tests and Criteria</i>.

4. An equivalent amendment is foreseen for Section 51.2.2 in Annex II of document INF.18 (42nd session) INF.36 (60th session). Additionally, for that sub-sentence on nitrocellulose the “(d)” is removed. Amendments shown in the following are in comparison to the text proposed in INF.18 (42nd session) INF.36 (60th session).

¹ based on paragraphs 28 to 31 of the report of the GHS Sub-Committee on its forty-first session (ST/SG/AC.10/C.4/82) and paragraph 81 of the report of the TDG Sub-Committee on its fifty-ninth session (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/118).

51.2.2	Desensitized explosives, should be tested
(a)	for their exothermic decomposition energy ¹ , if attempting to exit the class of desensitized explosives;
(b)	according to the test 1 (a), test series 2, 3 and tests 6 (a) and (b), respectively) of this Manual ¹ , according to the classification procedure in section 51.3, to preclude a mass explosion in the corrected burning rate test ;
(c)	according to the corrected burning rate test;
(d)	and nitrocellulose should be tested according to Appendix 10 of this Manual in order to be used in nitrocellulose mixtures—should be tested according to Appendix 10 of this Manual.

5. In decision logic 2.17.1 in Annex I of document INF.18 (42nd session) INF.36 (60th session) a correction is necessary. In the box for nitrocellulose, the word “stable” should be replaced by the word “unstable” as shown below:

For nitrocellulose in nitrocellulose mixtures: Appendix 10: Is it unstable stable?
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6. The Sub-Committee is invited to consider these additional amendments together with the proposals in informal documents INF.8 (42nd session) and INF.18 (42nd session) INF.36 (60th session).