



**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****Sixty-second session**

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Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Listing, classification and packing**Amendment to 2.6.3.2 of the Model Regulations -
classification of infectious substances****Transmitted by the World Health Organization (WHO)*******I. Objective**

1. The objective of this proposal is to develop a sustainable and flexible procedure for reviewing the indicative list of Category A infectious substances by granting the World Health Organization (WHO) the authority to review this list. This proposal aims to ensure the efficient, safe and secure transport of infectious substances by establishing clear and consistent standards for the classification.

II. Background

2. The indicative list of Category A identifies the infectious substances that pose the greatest risk to public health and safety, and as such, are subject to the strictest regulatory requirements for transport. The Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods reviews this list periodically to incorporate new information and developments in infectious disease research.

3. Notwithstanding, the recent outbreak of mpox (monkeypox) has highlighted the importance of an indicative list of Category A infectious substances that is updated with greater frequency, founded on a sound risk-based approach, and modifiable in response to the pathogen in question that causes the outbreak. Given the multitude of requests directed to the WHO for guidance in this regard, it appears reasonable that the WHO reviews this list on a regular basis.

4. Overall, this proposal aims to ensure the safe and secure transport of infectious substances by establishing clear and consistent standards for their classification.

* A/77/6 (Sect. 20), table 20.6

** This document was scheduled for publication after the standard publication date owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.



III. Proposal

A. WHO takes lead in reviewing of the indicative list of Category A infectious substances

5. To ensure the prompt, as well as periodic updating of the indicative list of Category A infectious substances by an organization that is actively engaged in the management of public health emergencies, we recommend that the responsibility of reviewing the list be entrusted to the WHO. In this regard, WHO will undertake a risk-based approach to classify the infectious substances in question.

B. Develop a sustainable and responsive procedure for maintaining this indicative list

6. Establish a sustainable and flexible procedure for maintaining and reviewing the indicative list in collaboration with the current expert group. The procedure will be based on established best practices and will consider the specific needs and requirements of different modes of transport. WHO will officially and publicly disseminate the reviewed indicative list, for instance, through its website.

7. Through the introduction of a reference structure for the indicative list of Category A infectious substances in the *Model Regulations*, and by conferring on the WHO the right to revise the list, the present proposal endeavours to guarantee the uniform application of the latest pertinent information for the secure and reliable transportation of infectious substances. This will serve to safeguard the well-being and safety of the public while facilitating the transportation of infectious substances.

8. The current classification scheme has been in place for a period of approximately two to three decades. It would be advantageous and appropriate to initiate a review of the classification scheme, as well.

IV. Additional background information

9. The list of Category A infectious substances is established by the United Nations (UN) Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG), which is part of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The Sub-Committee is composed of experts from member countries of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and its regional commissions, as well as observers from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

10. One of the key objectives of the TDG Sub-Committee is to ensure the safety of people, property, and the environment during the transport of dangerous goods. The Sub-Committee achieves this objective by developing and updating the recommendations on the classification, packaging, labelling, and transport documentation for dangerous goods.

11. The Sub-Committee is responsible for developing and revising the *Model Regulations* for the Transport of Dangerous Goods, which provide guidance and standards for the safe transport of dangerous goods, including infectious substances. The regulations include a classification system for dangerous goods, including Category A infectious substances, based on the potential risk they pose to human or animal health.

12. The Sub-Committee determines which infectious substances should be classified as Category A based on their known or suspected virulence, infectivity, and resistance to treatment, as well as their potential to cause serious or fatal illness in humans or animals. The indicative list of Category A infectious substances is regularly reviewed and updated by the Sub-Committee to reflect new information and developments in infectious disease research.

13. The Sub-Committee includes experts in areas such as chemistry, toxicology, engineering, packaging, transportation, and emergency response. Each member country

appoints its own delegation to the Sub-Committee, which may include government officials, industry representatives, and technical experts.

14. The work of the Sub-Committee is supported by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), which provides the secretariat for the Sub-Committee and coordinates its activities.
