Amendments to special provision 384 in the Model Regulations

Transmitted by the expert from China

Introduction

1. At its sixty-first session, the Sub-Committee considered informal document INF.38 (China) proposing to amend the labelling requirements of packages which contain lithium-ion battery products. In this document, China proposed to amend the labelling requirements in special provision 384 or 5.2.2.1.7 of the Model Regulations according to the different volume of the package to keep the labels visible enough during transport. During the session, some experts expressed their preference to amend special provision 384 between the two options provided in the document. Meanwhile, some experts expressed their concerns about the consequences to amend the minimum dimensions of the label.

2. After the session, Chinese experts consulted some lithium-ion battery manufacturers about this issue. The industry considered that the amendment to the labelling requirements in special provision 384 according to the different volume of packages would keep the label visible enough during transport, which would be helpful for the safe transport of packages containing lithium-ion battery products. Based on the attitude of the industry and the comments from experts, to ease the industry to adapt to the new requirements smoothly, China updated the proposal and introduced a transitional measure for the amendment.

Proposal

3. China proposes to amend in Chapter 3.3 special provision 384 to read as follows (deleted text appears in strikethrough and new text in bold underlined):

"384 The label to be used is Model No. 9A, see 5.2.2.2. However, for placarding of cargo transport units, the placard shall correspond to Model No 9."
NOTE: The Class 9 label (Model No 9) may continue to be used until 31 December 2018

(a) Large packaging and package which has a volume of more than 0.45 m$^3$ but not more than 3 m$^3$ shall be labelled with Model No. 9A on two opposing sides.

(b) Where the package has a volume of more than 3 m$^3$, it shall be labelled with Model No. 9A on two opposing sides and the minimum dimensions of the labels shall be 250 mm x 250 mm.

NOTE: The labelling requirements of special provision 384 in the twenty-third revised edition of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations may continue to be used until 31 December 2028.”