

**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

30 November 2023

Sixty-third session

Geneva, 27 November-6 December 2023

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Listing, classification and packing

**Infectious Substance Transport – Results of Lunchtime
Working Group**

**Council on the Safe Transportation of Hazardous Articles (COSTHA),
on behalf of the Working Group**

1. Delegations met during a lunchtime working group on Day 3 to discuss informal document INF.23 (COSTHA, DGTA, FAO) and informal document INF.30 (WHO) dealing with infectious substances. Challenges with infectious substances were detailed in informal document INF.23 and used to guide the discussion.
2. Below is a general summary of each of the topics:
 - (a) Managing the Indicative List of Category A pathogens (informal document INF.30, WHO)
 - (i) WHO shared significant practical and economic challenges with moving infectious substances in Central Asia, creating major barriers to timely transport. This is caused by a number of factors including customs or import/export rules, packaging availability, cost, and understanding of how the indicative list is to be used.
 - (ii) The group identified several potential solutions including:
 1. Review and revise the introduction to the Indicative List in 2.6.3.2.2.1;
 2. Develop particular provisions for quality assurance samples;
 3. Identify ways to address Cat A/Cat B determinations in an expedited manner based on regional health issues (i.e. include a sentence or paragraph that regional health authorities may override the Indicative List).
 - (iii) A formal proposal(s) will be included in a future paper to the Subcommittee.
 - (iv) WHO will be the primary lead on this topic.
 - (b) Pathogen name on shipping documents
 - (i) COSTHA and DGTA raised the concern that some regional health organizations determined that pathogen names represent a security risk and therefore replace the technical name with “suspected infectious substance affecting [humans/animals]”.
 - (ii) Delegations indicated the need to retain the pathogen name in the transport document for emergency response situations.

- (iii) In a related issue, the group suggested the related special provision could be reviewed to clarify that it is forbidden to add the technical name for security reasons.
 - (iv) COSTHA/DGTA will be the primary lead on this topic.
 - (c) P650 and Lithium Batteries
 - (i) Participants agreed that the existing provisions in P650 as well as P620 do not adequately address when lithium batteries may be contained in equipment or devices that must be shipped as Cat B or Cat A, respectively.
 - (ii) Revisions to P650 and P620 will be proposed in a future paper to the Subcommittee.
 - (iii) COSTHA/DGTA will be the primary lead on this topic.
 - (d) Used Medical Devices and Lithium Batteries
 - (i) The used medical device exception in 2.6.3.2.3.9 does not include provisions for lithium batteries. Therefore, when a used medical device containing lithium batteries is being shipped for disinfection, repair, etc., the material must be shipped as UN3373.
 - (ii) Revisions to 2.6.3.2.3.9 will be proposed in a future paper to the Subcommittee.
 - (iii) COSTHA/DGTA will be the primary lead on this topic.
 - (e) Dry shippers and UN3373/P650
 - (i) The current text of P650 makes it very difficult to use dry shippers. However, delegations felt dry shippers should be permitted under certain circumstances.
 - (ii) Revisions to P650 to include specific provisions for dry shippers will be proposed in a future paper to the Subcommittee.
 - (iii) FAO and Belgium will be the primary lead on this topic.
 - 3. Based on the discussion, the group agreed to continue efforts on the above-listed topics, and any others that may arise.
 - 4. As a way forward and to track progress on each of the areas, the group agreed to work in a collaborative way through an intersessional working group. As papers or proposals are being developed, the group encouraged each other to share progress and comments prior to the next session.
 - 5. Delegations interested in participating in the working group are encouraged to send an email to tom@costha.com. COSTHA will collect the contacts of those interested and share with the group for coordinating future work.
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