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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

Twenty-eighth session, 28 November-7 December 2005
Item 6 of the provisional agenda

**MISCELLANEOUS PROPOSALS OF AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL REGULATIONS
ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS**

Infectious Substances

Transmitted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

Background

1. At the ICAO Dangerous Goods Panel Working Group of the Whole 2005 meeting, a number of additional amendments to the requirements for transporting infectious substances were agreed and, following approval by the Council of ICAO, issued in a second addendum to the 2005-2006 edition of the *Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air* on 30 June 2005. It is proposed to amend the UN Regulations in a similar manner.

2. The amendments included:

- removal of the inconsistency in the use of the term “human or animal specimens”, “human or animal materials” and “patient specimens” in 2.6.3.1.4 and 2.6.3.2.3.6;
- clarification of the reference to “minimal likelihood” in 2.6.3.2.3.6;

- making mandatory the requirements for exempted specimens in 2.6.3.2.3.6;
- addition of a new paragraph 2.6.3.7 clarifying the classification of patient specimens;
- clarification of the requirement for the “Overpack” marking in packing instruction 650; and
- addition of a requirement in packing instruction 650 for the name and address of the shipper and consignee to be provided on each package as is required for all packages containing dangerous goods.

3. The working group did not agree to amend the requirement in packing instruction 650 in the Technical Instructions for a rigid packaging to be either the secondary or outer packaging. It was stated that experience showed flexible packaging had failed; it was agreed to maintain the requirement for a rigid outer packaging.

4. It was noted that 7.1.7.2.1 obliged carriers to accept consignments of infectious substances and it was suggested that it was not acceptable to force a carrier to accept such consignments; this requirement was not adopted.

Proposals

5. It is proposed to amend the beginning of 2.6.3.1.4 to read:

“Patient specimens are those collected directly....”

6. It is proposed to amend the beginning of 2.6.3.2.3.6 to read:

“Patient specimens for which there is minimal likelihood....”

7. In 2.6.3.2.3.6 it is proposed to replace “should” with “shall” four times.

8. It is proposed to add text to the note following 2.6.3.2.3.6 so that it reads:

“Note: In determining whether a patient specimen has a minimum likelihood that pathogens are present, an element of professional judgement is required....”

9. It is proposed to add a new section 2.6.3.7 Patient specimens and add a new paragraph:

“Patient specimens must be assigned to UN 2814, UN 2900 or UN 3373 as appropriate except if they comply with 2.6.3.2.3.”

10. In packing instruction 650, it is proposed to amend paragraph 10 to read:

“when packages are placed in an overpack, the package markings required by this packing instruction shall either be clearly visible or the markings shall be reproduced on the outside of the overpack and the overpack shall be marked with the word “Overpack”.”

11. In packing instruction 650, it is proposed to add to the end of paragraph so that it reads:

“...not subject to any other requirement in these regulations except for the following: the name and address of the shipper and of the consignee shall be provided on each package.”