DANGEROUS GOODS PANEL

Frankfurt, 16 to 20 September 2002

Agenda Item 2: Development of recommendations for amendments to the Technical Instructions for incorporation in the 2005/2006 edition

DIVISION 6.2 – INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES

(Presented by P. Steele)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 At DGP/18, the Panel agreed to align the Technical Instructions with the UN Recommendations on certain aspects regarding Infectious Substances, as detailed in Appendix B2 to the Report on DGP 18. As a consequence, effective 2003, there will be, in Part 2, a 'Note 1' immediately following 6.3.1.3.2, which states "Blood which has been collected for the purposes of blood transfusion or for the preparation of blood products, and blood products and any tissues or organs intended for use in transplants are not subject to these instructions".

1.1.2 Our Authority recently had reason to look into the procedures in place for the domestic movement of bovine foetal blood that is gathered in large quantities from abattoirs and forwarded by road or air for processing at serum laboratories. While our enquiries are still underway, it has become apparent that because of the wording of the scheduled amendment, we would have no jurisdiction over the movement of that or similar material, domestically or internationally, inbound or outbound. Furthermore, as the material is blood that has been collected for the preparation of blood products, we have formed the opinion this would apply even if the blood were known to contain active organisms of 6.2.

1.1.3 While conducting research on the properties of this specific blood, a paper containing a European Commission report on the subject was located on the Internet at http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/scah/out50_en.pdf. A copy of this paper will be made available as an information paper.

1.1.4 There has been insufficient time to seek advice from appropriate specialists in this area prior to the cutoff for papers. The EC paper would give rise to concerns about a blanket exclusion from any packaging standards for air transport of this particular blood, especially in its raw state, and, therefore, other types.

1.1.5 There is no concern in principle with the exclusion as it relates to blood for transfusions, or tissues or organs for transplant.

1.1.6 The exclusion from the Instructions also raises the question as to whether that exclusion now overrides State Variation AU3, which advises that specific approvals are required for certain blood products imported to Australia.

2. PROPOSAL

2.1 The Panel is invited to consider if it believes the exclusion expressed by Note 1 is too broad. No suggested appropriate amendment can be offered at this stage.

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