

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

DEFINITION – DIAGNOSTIC SPECIMENS

(Presented by J. Abouchaar)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In the report of DGP/18, item 2.2.6.3, it was agreed to revise the definition of Diagnostic Specimens to align with that in the UN.

1.2 The change removes reference to risk groups, as set out in Part 2;6.3.1.3(a) & (b) and instead incorporates the following wording from the UN:

"Diagnostic specimens must be assigned to UN 3373 unless the source patient or animal has or may have a serious human or animal disease which can be readily transmitted from one individual to another, directly or indirectly, and for which effective treatment and preventative measures are not usually available, in which case they must be assigned to UN 2814 or UN 2900."

1.3 The words above following UN 3373 are identical to those used in Part 2;6.3.2.2.(a) to describe Risk Group 4 infectious substances. This change has raised concerns from large volume shippers of infectious substances and diagnostic specimens that the new wording can be read and interpreted to mean that only Risk Group 4 have to be declared as an infectious substance i.e. UN 2814 or UN 2900, everything else i.e. infectious substances meeting the criteria for Risk Groups 2 or 3 can be shipped as UN 3373 - diagnostic specimens.

1.4 While there are proposals to revise the classification of certain infectious substances and diagnostic specimens, WP/12, and the associated Proper Shipping Name and Packing Instruction, WP/13 & WP/14, these changes have yet to be discussed and agreed to. Until any changes have been agreed to, the requirement should be that all infectious substances, Risk Groups 2, 3 & 4, must be declared as Infectious Substances, UN 2814 or UN 2900 and packed as per Packing Instruction 602.

2. PROPOSAL

2.1 Amend the text in Part 2;6.3.1.3.2 to reflect that where a diagnostic specimen contains infectious substances in Risk Group 2, 3 or 4 then the substance must be assigned to UN 2814 or UN 2900 as follows:

6.3.1.3.2 Diagnostic specimens must be assigned to UN 3373 unless the source patient or animal has or may have a **human or animal disease which is capable of causing serious infection on exposure**, in which case they must be assigned to UN 2814 or UN 2900.

2.2 If the Panel believes that the amendment above represents a significant safety issue, then the Panel is asked to consider if this change should be included in a corrigendum to the ICAO Technical Instructions, 2003-2004 edition.

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