

DANGEROUS GOODS PANEL

Dubai, 31 March to 4 April 2003

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

SIGNATURE ON DANGEROUS GOODS TRANSPORT DOCUMENT

(Presented by P. Steele)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Part 5; 4.1.1 and 4.1.12 of the Technical Instructions require that the person offering dangerous goods for transport provide a dangerous goods transport document containing a declaration signed by the person who offers the goods for transport.

1.1.2 An instance was recently brought to our attention where a consignment originating in New Zealand, and destined for Australia, was accompanied by a transport document signed by an Australian resident who had not seen the consignment. The signatory was an employee of the company that was shipping the goods. This consignment was exactly as declared, but there have been similar instances where the consignment bore little resemblance to the documentation.

1.1.3 Under our law a "person" can be a company, so the strict legal sense of the Instructions were probably met. However, it is doubted the intent of the Instructions is to allow such a situation, and it is difficult to perceive how such a statement can be made without first-hand knowledge of the consignment.

2. PROPOSAL

2.1 The Panel is invited to consider if the Instructions should specify that the person who signs the declaration must have physically sighted the consignment. Should that be the case, Part 5; 4.1.12 could possibly be amended by adding the words "The person who signs the declaration must have physically checked the consignment".

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