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 **18 November 2011**

Fortieth session
Geneva, 28 November – 7 December 2011
Item 6 of the provisional agenda
Cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency

Provisions for uranium hexafluoride with less than 0.1 kg per package

Note by the secretariat

1. Reference is made to ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2011/46, paragraph 8 and annex.

2. During discussions with IAEA experts, the secretariat was invited to provide background information on the assignment of subsidiary risks to UN Nos 2977 and 2978, notably data sheets if submitted when these UN numbers were introduced.

3. The secretariat has checked the files. These UN numbers were introduced on the basis of a proposal by the United States of America in document ST/SG/AC.10/C.2/R.221, later revised (but without changes to paragraph 6) and submitted on 16 September 1980 to the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods in document ST/SG/AC.10/R.52. The proposal in paragraph 6, intended to add additional entries for materials possessing significant subsidiary risks in order to ensure appropriate emergency response to transports accidents was adopted by the Committee at its eleventh session (1–10 December 1980) (ST/SG/AC.10/5, para.55).

4. The proposal in paragraph 6 was not accompanied with data sheets related to the subsidiary hazards of the proposed new entries (see scanned copy in annex).

5. The system of assignment of UN numbers to Class 7 material was revisited in 1994 at the request of IAEA (ST/SG/AC.10/R.486) in order to better correspond to the transport conditions specified in each of the thirteen IAEA "Schedules" and to differentiate fissile material from non-fissile (or fissile excepted) material. The proposal was discussed by the Committee at its 18th session in December 1994 and, as proposed, most of the specific UN numbers added in 1980 were deleted, except UN Nos 2977 and 2978 which were considered as special cases without a unique relationship with IAEA Schedules.

The justification provided by IAEA was as follows:

"The adoption of the proposal will entail:

- An improved relationship with UN numbers and IAEA Schedules;
- A more effective distinction between fissile and non-fissile (or fissile-excepted) material;

- Specific UN numbers for uranium hexafluoride, a material widely transported in large quantities and whose subsidiary risk can be the dominant one;

- No “NOS” entries being necessary.”.

6. This proposal (-/R.486) led to the current identification of radioactive material in the UN Model Regulations.

16 Sept 1980
Rev 4 CE/R.22 1

5. In the entry UN 2918, the words "Class I, II or III" should not appear in capital letters and should not, therefore, be considered a part of the proper shipping name. This information is not considered essential for inclusion in the proper shipping name since IAEA already requires that the fissile class be entered on the transport documentation. In addition, should the additional entries proposed below be adopted, it will be necessary to add the letters "N.O.S." to this entry.

6. In order to ensure appropriate emergency response to transportation accidents involving radioactive materials, it is proposed that the following additional entries, primarily relating to materials possessing significant subsidiary risks, be adopted:

	NAME	CLASS	SUBSIDIARY RISK
2974	RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS, SPECIAL FORM, N.O.S.	7	-
2975	THORIUM METAL, PYROPHORIC	7	4.2
2976	THORIUM NITRATE, SOLID	7	5.1
2977	URANIUM HEXAFLUORIDE, FISSILE containing more than 0.7 per cent Uranium-235	7	8
2978	URANIUM HEXAFLUORIDE, LOW SPECIFIC ACTIVITY containing 0.7 per cent or less Uranium-235	7	8
2979	URANIUM METAL, PYROPHORIC	7	4.2
2980	URANYL NITRATE HEXAHYDRATE SOLUTION	7	8
2981	URANYL NITRATE, SOLID	7	5.1
2982	RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL, n.o.s.	7	-