

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

28 November 2011

Fortieth session

Geneva, 28 November – 7 December 2011

Item 10 of the provisional agenda

Other Business

Invitation to Participate in an International Videoconference regarding Fireworks Classification, Approval and Transport

Transmitted by the expert from the United States

Introduction

1. During the Sub-Committee's previous session, the United States organized and participated in informal discussions with members of the explosives working group and pyrotechnic experts to discuss implementation of the current fireworks default classification system on a regional and national level. Approximately ten representatives from Competent Authorities participated in this discussion where topics included, but were not limited to, fireworks classification schemes within their respective states, approval and testing of fireworks, the UN default fireworks classification table and the safe transport of fireworks.
2. The expert from the United States is interested in continuing this dialogue and expanding upon the topics previously discussed. Furthermore, the United States is looking to expand the scope of authorities involved in these conversations. To facilitate discussion, the United States plans to host an international videoconference in early 2012 to address the topic of fireworks classification, approval and transport. The expert from the United States would like to extend an invitation to the appropriate experts within each Competent Authority to participate in this videoconference. It is envisioned that such dialogue will provide a valuable opportunity to foster greater understanding between Competent Authorities from around the world regarding the classification of fireworks, specifically, how classification of fireworks is handled within each country and the application of the UN default fireworks classification table.
3. The United States requests that interested delegates register to participate and also make State pyrotechnic experts aware of this videoconference. Experts interested in participating in this videoconference may register by contacting Vallary Maxey via email at: vallary.maxey@dot.gov. Further details on the timing and logistics of the international videoconference will subsequently be provided. The United States will also provide interested parties with a preliminary survey from which the videoconference agenda will be derived. So that delegates have an understanding of the types of questions that will be considered, the attached is a listing of examples of questions likely to be considered in the survey to be provided to all registrants.

Sample Questions

Do you evaluate fireworks for transportation classification, consumer safety, or both?

Do you use the UN Default Table for the classification of fireworks?

If you do use the UN Default Table, do you require that fireworks are tested?

If you do require testing, is the testing related to the classification (design type) or consumer safety (production sampling)? If so, please explain.

What exceptions or variances have you adopted, if any, from the UN Regulations?

What is the flow process for the device — from the manufacturer → to testing or the UN Table → to Competent Authority approval?

What is the average number of fireworks approvals you issue yearly?

How do you regulate (enforce) the transportation of fireworks, e.g., do you inspect shipments of fireworks and do you enforce your regulations? If so, how do you inspect and enforce?

When unapproved fireworks are found do you have seizure and destruction authority?

Do you have a prohibited chemicals list?

Do you have reciprocity between countries?

How do you regulate waste firework shipments to a disposal facility (i.e., firework debris and remains from firework displays such as unexploded stars)?
