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## 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

#### Sixty-fourth session

Geneva, 24 June-3 July 2024

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**Listing, classification and packing**

### **Clarification of the indicative list of Category A infectious substances**

**Transmitted by the experts from Canada and the World  
Health Organization (WHO)\***

#### **I. Introduction**

1. Following recent emerging international health situations, the need for a flexible and dynamic indicative list of Category A infectious substances has become apparent.
2. This is evidenced by the number of requests received by the WHO during emerging health situations for guidance on the transport of the implicated pathogen, including its classification.
3. Therefore, developing a flexible approach to the indicative list would permit a sounder risk-based approach to the classification of Category A infectious substances while providing the ability to address emerging health situations.
4. This proposal builds on comments provided by Canada during plenary on informal document INF.30 (sixty-third session) submitted by the WHO and supports sustainable development goal 6, “peace, justice, and strong institutions.”; specifically, the implementation of target 16.6 to “develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels”.

#### **II. Explanation**

5. To better address emerging health situations, it is necessary to provide a framework that enables international and national health authorities to have the necessary flexibility in dealing with emerging health situations.
6. As such, additional wording is necessary in the introduction of the indicative list of Category A infectious substances to provide this necessary framework. This additional

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\* A/78/6 (Sect. 20), table 20.5.



regulatory wording should be included in the body of the text before the indicative list of Category A infectious substances.

### III. Additional change

7. Furthermore, following the review of the notes associated with the indicative list, another change was identified.

8. The current text in NOTE 2 is, in our view, regulatory in nature as it indicates a mandatory requirement for unlisted infectious substances that meet the same criteria as the infectious substances in the list as well as how to proceed when there is a doubt as to appropriate classification.

9. Therefore, it is proposed to move the information found in NOTE 2 to regulatory text before the indicative list of Category A infectious substances.

### IV. Proposal

10. In 2.6.3.2.2.1 the following changes are proposed, with deleted text in strikethrough and new text in **bold underline**:

~~“NOTE 2: 2.6.3.2.2.1.1~~ The following table is not exhaustive. Infectious substances, including new or emerging pathogens, which do not appear in the table but which meet the same criteria shall be assigned to Category A. In addition, if there is doubt as to whether or not a substance meets the criteria it shall be included in Category A.

**2.6.3.2.2.1.2 The indicative list may not be representative of the current health context and may be modified based on the advice of the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization or national authorities to address emerging health situations.”**

11. If agreed upon, a consequential amendment would be to renumber Note 3 to Note 2.

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