



**Secretariat**

**Distr.  
GENERAL**

**ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/1999/91  
22 September 1999**

**Original: ENGLISH**

---

**COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE  
TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS  
Sub-Committee of Experts on the  
Transport of Dangerous Goods  
(Seventeenth session,  
Geneva, 6-17 December 1999,  
agenda item 4)**

**TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS DOCUMENTATION**

**Sequence of information on transport document**

**Transmitted by the expert from The Netherlands**

1. At its sixteenth session the Sub-Committee several delegations brought the idea forward to revise the current sequence of the information required in dangerous goods transport document. Especially the idea was expressed that the UN number should be come the first information item in the sequence of information in the transport document. To discuss this idea in detail the expert of the United States asked for a formal proposal on this subject.
2. The current situation in the modes (ICAO, RID, ADR, ADN, IMDG, CFR) is that there is no harmonized system with respect to the sequence of information on the transport document. As the transport of dangerous goods nowadays becomes more and more multimodal and international, a harmonised documentation system is necessary, especially with regard to the basic items of information necessary for each dangerous substance, material or article.
3. As an agreed sequence is already available, namely the structure of the dangerous goods list (see 3.2.1), it is proposed to use this structure as the base for the sequence of information required on the transport document. A further advance for the use of this sequence is that this sequence is and will be used in the reformatted/restructured ICAO, RID, ADR and IMDG.

4. The introduction of this sequence in the transport document will make the UN number the first and most prominent part of the information. The advantage to use the UN number, as the internationally agreed identification numbering system for the transport of dangerous goods, as first item of information is that it will not lead to misinterpretation and problems in identification and emergency situations.

**Proposal**

5. The following sequence of information is therefore proposed:

- (a) The UN number, preceded by the letters “UN”;
- (b) Proper Shipping Name, as determined in accordance with 3.1.2;
- (c) Class or, when assigned, division, preceded by the word “class”;
- (d) Subsidiary risk (class number or numbers corresponding to the subsidiary risk or the descriptive text for these risks);
- (e) UN Packing group, preceded by the letters “PG”.

**Action requested of the Sub-Committee**

6. The Sub-Committee is invited to consider this proposal and take action as deemed appropriate.

---