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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

Twenty-fifth session, 5-14 July 2004
Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**MISCELLANEOUS PROPOSALS OF AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL REGULATIONS
ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS**

Transport requirements of asbestos (UN 2212 and UN 2590)

Transmitted by the expert from South Africa

Background

Consignments of asbestos are transported regularly between South Africa and its neighbouring countries. During the past year a number of dangerous goods vehicles transporting asbestos were involved in incidents.

The asbestos was packed in multiwall paper bags (5M1) in accordance with packing instruction P002 and packing provision PP37. Additional to the packing instructions, each bag was sealed in a plastics bag before being shrink-wrapped or stretch-wrapped into unit loads. Some of these unit loads fell off the vehicle at the time of the accident.

The result was that a number of the unit loads including the multiwall paper bags burst open. This caused major problems and could have had serious health effects for the people living in the area of the spill, as well as for the environment.

The impact of the accidents on the health of people and on the environment would have been much less if the shrink-wrapped or stretch-wrapped unit loads of asbestos had been transported in closed freight containers or closed cargo transport units.

Proposal

It is proposed that packing provision PP37 be amended to read:

"PP37 For UN 2590 and UN 2212, 5M1 bags are permitted. *Packages, and shrink-wrapped or stretched-wrapped unit loads shall be transported in closed freight containers or other closed cargo transport units."*
