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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****Forty-first session**

Geneva, 25 June – 4 July 2012

Item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda

**Explosives and related matters: test series 8****Ammonium nitrate emulsions – Special provision 309****Transmitted by the Australian Explosives Industry Safety Group  
(AEISG)<sup>1</sup>****Introduction**

1. This proposal is to clarify the classification requirements for the use of UN 3375, and to remove the obligation for competent authority approval to classify UN 3375 when the material performs satisfactorily in the relevant Series 8 tests.
2. The entry for UN 3375, AMMONIUM NITRATE EMULSION or SUSPENSION or GEL, intermediate for blasting explosives, in the Dangerous Goods List in Chapter 3.2 of the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations, seventeenth revised edition, includes in Column 6 a reference to special provision SP309.
3. SP309 states in paragraph 4 (refer Chapter 3.3):  
“Substances shall satisfactorily pass Test Series 8 of the *Manual of Tests and Criteria*, Part I, Section 18 and be approved by the competent authority.”.

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with the programme of work of the Sub-Committee for 2011-2012 approved by the Committee at its fifth session (refer to ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/76, para. 116 and ST/SG/AC.10/38, para. 16).

## Discussion

4. Test Series 8 contains four test types. Tests 8(a), (b) and (c) are used for classification purposes while Test 8(d) is used to assess suitability for transport in portable tanks.
5. The use of this entry (UN 3375), therefore requires only that Tests 8(a), (b) and (c) are satisfactorily passed.
6. Test 8(d) is picked up by the Portable Tank Special Provision TP32 in Column 11 of the UN 3375 entry in the Dangerous Goods List.
7. When substances perform satisfactorily in tests documented in the Manual of Tests and Criteria, it is not usual that those substances then also need to be approved by the competent authority.
8. Even for explosives classification, e.g. for UN 0331 or 0332, approval by the competent authority is not required following satisfactory testing.
9. Substances are routinely excluded from Class 1 using the satisfactory performance in Test Series 2 without the additional approval of the substance by the competent authority e.g. for ammonium nitrate, UN 1942 and associated Special provision SP306.
10. It is considered that Test Series 8 is now an established Test Series within the Manual of Tests and Criteria, and hence for entries in UN 3375 satisfactory performance in the relevant tests is sufficient basis for proper classification without the additional and unnecessary approval of each substance by the competent authority.

## Proposal

11. It is proposed to amend SP309 (final sentence only) to include the relevant tests of Test Series 8, and to remove the requirement for each substance to be approved by the competent authority, as follows:

“Substances shall satisfactorily pass Tests 8(a), (b) and (c) of Test Series 8 of the *Manual of Tests and Criteria*, Part I, Section 18.”.

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