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COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (Sixteenth session, Geneva, 5-16 July 1999, agenda item 5 (a))

MISCELLANEOUS DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL REGULATIONS ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

Listing and classification

Transport of Methyl Bromide with up to 2% Chloropicrin

Transmitted by the Expert from the United States of America

Background

1. Methyl bromide (UN 1062) is commonly odorized with a small percentage of chloropicrin (up to two percent). The chloropicrin serves as a warning agent, as methyl bromide is an odorless toxic gas (LC₅₀ 850 ppm/4H;RTECS). The addition of chloropicrin (LC₅₀ 14.4 ppm/4H;RTECS) has a minimal effect on the overall toxicity of the mixture. However, there have been instances where shipments of methyl bromide odorized with chloropicrin have been stopped and authorities have questioned whether the shipment should be more accurately classified as UN 1581, chloropicrin and methyl bromide mixture. It is proposed that additional text be added to column 2 of the dangerous goods list following the proper shipping name for methyl bromide to allow the presence of up to 2% chloropicrin.

Proposal

3. Add text in lower case type following the entry for methyl bromide (UN 1062) in column 2 of the dangerous goods list, so that the new entry would read:

METHYL BROMIDE with not more than 2% chloropicrin.