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COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE
TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

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WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS
ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

Draft amendments to the Recommendations
on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Reclassification of UN 2531, Methacrylic acid, inhibited

Transmitted by the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC)

CEFIC recently became aware of a skin irritation/corrosion study on methacrylic acid that has been completed in the United States of America. This study provides new data to justify the transfer of methacrylic acid from Class 8 PG III to Class 8 PG II. This proposal was introduced and discussed at the last Sub-Committee meeting in July 1998 (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/1998/13, ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/30, para. 94). More informations were required on specific aspects of the problem. These additional elements are developed hereafter.

Following application of undiluted methacrylic acid to intact rabbit skin for a period of 3 minutes there appeared to be sufficient chemical absorbed into the skin to cause tissue damage in depth. Whilst this tissue necrosis was not immediately apparent, or indeed observed at the early observation times, full depth tissue necrosis (Eschar) was observed at the site of contact at the 24 hour observation time. This necrosis in depth was judged as being irreversible and would have resulted in permanent scar formation.

According to the UN criteria full thickness destruction of intact skin resulting from a 3 minutes contact but not observed until 24 hour after application warrants classification as Class 8 packing group II.

GE.98-23355

Proposal

The following amendment is proposed:

- In the Dangerous Goods List, amend the entry for methacrylic acid as follows:

UN No.	Name and description	Class or division	Subsidiary risk	UN packing group	Special provisions	Limited quantities	Packagings and IBCs		Portable tanks	
							Packing instruction	Special provisions	Portable tank instruction	Portable tank special provisions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
2531	Methacrylic acid, inhibited	8		II		1 L			T4	TP1 TP18
