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**COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT
OF DANGEROUS GOODS**

**Sub-Committee of Experts on the
Transport of Dangerous Goods**

**(Eighteenth session, 3-14 July 2000,
agenda item 5 (d))**

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

Packagings

Packing of Ethylene Oxide (UN 1040)

Transmitted by the expert from the United States of America

Discussion

1. At its most recent meeting in February 2000, the IMO Sub-Committee on Dangerous Goods, Bulk Solids and Containers (DSC Sub-Committee) adopted a new special packing provision for ethylene oxide (UN 1040). The provision provides continuing recognition of packing methods authorized under the current IMDG Code, but that would not have been authorized in the reformatted IMDG Code (Amendment 30) based solely on incorporation of the current provisions for packing ethylene oxide as presented in the UN Model Regulation (i.e., in current UN Packing Instruction P200). In adopting the new special packing provision, the DSC Sub-Committee requested the United States to submit a document to the UN Sub-Committee proposing similar amendments to the UN Model Regulation. It is in response to that request that this document is submitted.
2. The new special packing provision adopted by the DSC Sub-Committee (requirement for water bath test of inner packagings included here but not in the DSC special provision), and proposed herein, authorizes the packing of ethylene oxide in small inner receptacles of glass or metal in combination packagings, including fibreboard, wood and metal outer packagings.

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A common use for such small quantities of ethylene oxide is in sterilization devices used in hospitals and doctor's offices. Similar combination packagings have been used for many years for the transport of ethylene oxide, and are currently authorized for use under various other international modal transport regulations.

Proposals

3. In light of the foregoing, the Sub-Committee is invited to consider the following proposals.

- (a) For the entry "ETHYLENE OXIDE" (UN 1040) in the Dangerous Goods List, add in Column (9) (Packagings and IBCs, Special Provisions) a reference to a new Special Provision "PP79".
- (b) In Packing Instruction P200, under "Special packing provisions", add a new provision PP79 to read:

"PP79 Ethylene oxide (UN 1040) may also be packed in hermetically sealed glass or metal inner packagings suitably cushioned in fibreboard, wooden or metal boxes meeting the Packing Group I performance level. The maximum quantity permitted in any glass inner packaging is 30 ml, and the maximum quantity permitted in any metal inner packaging is 150 ml. After filling, each inner packaging must be determined to be leak-tight by placing the inner packaging in a hot water bath at a temperature, and for a period of time, sufficient to ensure that an internal pressure equal to the vapour pressure of ethylene oxide at 55°C is achieved. The total quantity in any outer package may not exceed 1.5 litre."
