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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**
(Twentieth session, 3-12 December 2001,
agenda item 5 (b))

PACKAGINGS

Miscellaneous proposals (Chapters 4.1, 6.5, 6.6)

UN 2813 Water-reactive solid N.O.S (Magnesium/Iron/Polyethylene Powder)

Transmitted by the expert from the United Kingdom

Background

1. At the nineteenth session of the Sub-Committee, the expert from the United Kingdom submitted ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2001/17, which contained a proposal to amend the packing provisions for small quantities of UN 2813 to be transported as a means of heating ready cooked and packed meals.
2. The Sub-Committee will recall that this water-reactive solid substance, (Magnesium/Iron/Polyethylene Powder) is used in small quantities of up to 15g as a method of heating, most commonly but not exclusively, for ready cooked and packed meals, Each sachet of substance is sealed in a plastics bag. This plastics bag is in turn placed inside another plastics bag.
3. This water reactive solid meets the provisions of Packing Group I for UN 2813, and is therefore allocated to Packing Instruction P403. For combination packagings in P403 there is a requirement that permitted inner packagings containing such substances shall have threaded closures.
4. The expert from the United Kingdom proposes that these combination packages should be regulated as dangerous goods in transport under the conditions for UN 2813, PGI, but the threaded closure requirement is impracticable and not necessary.

5. When the subject was first discussed at the July 2001 session, the Sub-Committee supported the proposal but asked that it not be restricted to " Meals Ready to Eat ".

The expert from the United Kingdom has therefore amended the proposal as follows.

Proposal

6. Add a new special packaging provision to P403 as follows:

"PPxx For UN 2813 Packing Group I, sachets containing not more than 15 g of substance for the purposes of heat formation may be packaged for transport. Each sachet shall be sealed in a plastics bag and placed within a further plastics bag. No outer packaging shall contain more than 300 g of substance."
