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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

Thirty-second session
Geneva, 3-12 (a.m.) December 2007
Item 6 of the provisional agenda

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

Definition of closed cargo transport unit

Transmitted by the expert from Belgium ^{*/}

Background

1. In July 2007, the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods decided to introduce the following definition of a closed cargo transport unit in section 1.2.1:

Closed cargo transport unit: means a cargo transport unit which totally encloses the contents by permanent structures. Cargo transport units with fabric sides or tops are not considered closed cargo transport units.

(See also ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/62, paras. 61-62 and annex 1).

^{*/} In accordance with the programme of work of the Sub-Committee for 2007-2008 approved by the Committee at its third session (refer to ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/60, para. 100 and ST/SG/AC.10/34, para. 14) (Further measures to facilitate global harmonization of transport of dangerous goods regulations with the UN Model Regulations).

2. The structure of this text (the definition itself, followed by an exception) is not optimal; a definition ought to be written in such a way that there are no exceptions to it.

3. Moreover, the exception made for cargo transport units with fabric sides or tops does not eliminate all unacceptable possibilities:

- some flexible sides or tops remain possible (e.g. made out of plastics film, if someone might wish to use this material);
- rigid sides or tops with openings in them (e.g. with a lattice-work or barred surfaces).

Proposal

4. In consideration of the foregoing, it is proposed to amend the definition of a closed cargo transport unit in section 1.2.1 to read as follows:

Closed cargo transport unit: means a cargo transport unit which totally encloses the contents by permanent structures with complete and rigid surfaces.
