DANGEROUS GOODS PANEL (DGP)

MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP OF THE WHOLE

Abu Dhabi, 4 to 8 October 2004

Agenda Item 2: Development of recommendations for amendments to the *Technical Instructions* for incorporation in the 2007/2008 edition
2.4: Part 4 — Packing Instructions

ICAO PI 602 VS. UN PI 620

(Presented by M. Hinoul)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Belgian Civil Aviation authority has been informed about a possible contradiction between the packing instructions for **Infectious substances Category A** in the ICAO Technical Instructions and the UN Recommendations. This contradiction has to do with the 95 kPa pressure differential.

1.2 Packing Instruction 602 of the Technical Instructions reads as follows:

"The primary receptacle or the secondary packaging used for infectious substances must be capable of withstanding, without leakage, an internal pressure which produces a pressure differential of not less than 95 kPa (0.95 bar, 13.8 lb/in²) in the range of -40°C to +55°C (-40°F to 130°F)."

1.3 Packing Instruction 620 of the UN Recommendations reads as follows:

"Whatever the intended temperature of the consignment, the primary receptacle or the secondary packaging shall be capable of withstanding without leakage an internal pressure producing a pressure differential of not less than 95 kPa **and temperatures in the range** -40 °C to +55 °C."

1.4 Packing Instruction 602 provides one single condition (i.e. a pressure differential of 95 kPa linked to the temperature range -40 °C to +55 °C), while the wording of the UN Recommendations Packing Instruction 620 could be interpreted as two separate conditions (i.e. pressure differential of 95 kPa at whatever temperature AND the package must be capable to withstand a temperature range of -40 °C to +55 °C).

1.5 This difference in wording poses a problem for the competent authorities for the testing and certification of packages.

1.6 As we believe that the UN originally adopted the requirement of pressure differential of 95 kPa from the Technical Instructions, we feel that the existing text in the UN Recommendations should be changed in accordance with the ICAO Technical Instructions.

2. PROPOSAL

2.1 If the Panel agrees that the wording of Packing Instruction 602 of the Technical Instructions is the correct one, it is proposed that the Secretary of the ICAO Dangerous Goods Panel should introduce a working paper to the UN Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods.

2.2 We believe that this action towards the UN should be taken by the air mode itself (read the Secretary of the ICAO Dangerous Goods Panel) rather than by an individual country because this condition of packaging is typical for air transport.

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