



**WORKING PAPER**

**DANGEROUS GOODS PANEL (DGP)**

**TWENTY-FOURTH MEETING**

**Montréal, 28 October to 8 November 2013**

**Agenda Item 2: Development of recommendations for amendments to the *Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air (Doc 9284)* for incorporation in the 2015-2016 Edition**

**SPECIAL PROVISION A131**

(Presented by D. Brennan)

**SUMMARY**

This working paper proposes a clarification in the wording of Special Provision A131 to remove confusion about the lack of a code in column 9 of Table 3-1.

**Action by the DGP:** The DGP is invited to revise the wording of Special Provision A131 as shown in the appendix to this working paper.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Special Provision A131 is assigned against UN 1040, **Ethylene oxide** and permits small quantities of ethylene oxide for use in sterilization devices to be shipped under the provisions for dangerous goods in excepted quantities, notwithstanding that UN 1040 as a Division 2.3 gas is forbidden / forbidden.

1.2 The wording of Special Provision A131 was revised in the 2012-2013 Edition of the Technical Instructions to align with the wording of Special Provision 342 of the UN Model Regulations when the UN Subcommittee adopted provisions for small quantities of UN 1040 in sterilization devices.

1.3 However, there is a subtle difference between the provisions of the UN Model Regulations and the Technical Instructions with respect to the information in the dangerous goods list and that is while the UN in column 7(b) assigns E0 against UN 1040, Table 3-1 in column 9 is blank.

1.4 The wording of Special Provision A131 (342) though makes specific reference to E0 in column 9, as follows:

A131 (342) Glass inner receptacles (such as ampoules or capsules) intended only for use in sterilization devices, when containing less than 30 mL of ethylene oxide per inner packaging with not more than 300 mL per outer packaging, may be transported in accordance with the provisions in 3;5, irrespective of the indication of "E0" in column 9 of Table 3-1 provided that:

...

1.5 It is suggested that the reference to "E0" and the lack of reference to UN 1040 being forbidden raises some question by airlines and shippers on the ability to use the provisions of Part 3;5 for dangerous goods in excepted quantities.

1.6 In looking at this issue it was identified that there is another special provision, A75 that is very similar in that it allows for small quantities, in this instance of UN 2014, which is also forbidden / forbidden, to be shipped under the excepted quantity provisions. In A75 however, the wording is quite clear regarding both the information in column 9 and the fact that the substances is forbidden / forbidden.

1.7 It is therefore proposed to revise the wording of Special Provision A131 to align to that used in A75 to identify the lack of information in column 9 and reference to UN 1040 being forbidden / forbidden. It is proposed to leave reference to UN Special Provision 342 in parentheses as the wording of the special provision remains almost completely identical to that in SP 342, despite the proposed editorial change.

-----

APPENDIX

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO PART 3 OF THE TECHNICAL INSTRUCTIONS

Part 3

DANGEROUS GOODS LIST,  
SPECIAL PROVISIONS AND  
LIMITED AND EXCEPTED QUANTITIES

...

Chapter 3

SPECIAL PROVISIONS

...

Table 3-2. Special provisions

...

- A131 (342) Glass inner receptacles (such as ampoules or capsules) intended only for use in sterilization devices, when containing less than 30 mL of ethylene oxide per inner packaging with not more than 300 mL per outer packaging, may be transported in accordance with the provisions in 3.5, irrespective of the indication of "E0" in value in column 9 and the indication of "forbidden" in columns 10 to 13 of the Dangerous Goods List (Table 3-1), provided that:
- a) after filling, each glass inner receptacle has been determined to be leak-tight by placing the glass inner receptacle 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. Any glass inner receptacle showing evidence of leakage, distortion or other defect under this test must not be transported under the terms of this special provision;
  - b) in addition to the packaging required by 3.5.2, each glass inner receptacle is placed in a sealed plastic bag compatible with ethylene oxide and capable of containing the contents in the event of breakage or leakage of the glass inner receptacle; and
  - c) each glass inner receptacle is protected by a means of preventing puncture of the plastic bag (e.g. sleeves or cushioning) in the event of damage to the packaging (e.g. by crushing).

...

— END —