

## **DANGEROUS GOODS PANEL (DGP)**

### **NINETEENTH MEETING**

**Montreal, 27 October to 7 November 2003**

#### **Agenda Item 2: Development of recommendations for amendments to the Technical Instructions for incorporation in the 2005/2006 edition**

#### **SEQUENCE OF INFORMATION ON THE TRANSPORT DOCUMENT**

(Presented by J. Abouchaar)

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 DGP/18 discussed the decision of the previous UNSCOE meeting (See DGP/18 report 2.1.7.1) to change the basic sequence of information on the transport document so that the UN number appears first, to be followed by the proper shipping name. After considerable discussion (DGP/18, 2.4.6.3.3.), the DGP considered there was a need for a transition period and that the long-term goal should be **a single sequence**. The Panel also agreed at DGP/18 that:

- a) the present aviation sequence would continue to be accepted for a two-year transition period;
- b) the two UN alternative sequence would also be acceptable for air transport.

The Panel also agreed that ICAO (DGP 18, 2.1.7.3) would support the IATA request for the discussion to be reopened at the UNSCOE.

At its 80th meeting in 2002, the IATA Dangerous Goods Board discussed the UNSCOE decision to change the basic sequence of information on the transport document and taking into consideration the discussion at DGP/18 decided that the two UN alternative sequence would be acceptable for air transport until the end of 2004 and, after a two-year transition, with effect from January 1, 2005, the only sequence permitted would be the one starting with the UN number. This additional IATA requirement was published in the 44th DGR, which became effective on January 1, 2003.

It was also agreed that this information should be relayed to the UNSCOE.

1.2 The 22nd UNSCOE was advised of IATA decision (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/44 paragraph 68 appearing in attachment A). The UNSCOE Secretariat was requested to convey the Sub-Committee's concern to IATA.

1.3 The UNSCOE concerns were discussed by the IATA DGB at their 82nd meeting. Mr. G. Bisignani, IATA Director General, advised the UNSCOE (see attachment B), that the IATA Dangerous Goods Board had agreed to delay implementing of a single sequence to year 2007, and that the 45th edition of the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations will reflect this change.

1.4 IATA response was acknowledged at the following UNSCOE (July 2003) as per M100 of ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/46 (see attachment C).

## 2. PROPOSAL

2.1 The airline industry considers that a standard and single basic sequence of information on the transport document to be very important for safety reasons.

- C A standard single sequence ensures accurate and rapid comprehension of the dangerous goods identification.
- C A single sequence greatly simplifies transport operations. As the only mode, which specifically carries out a checklist, administering and training for dual sequence format delays air shipments and place a disproportionate financial burden on air carriers.

2.2 Accordingly, it is proposed the Panel adopt a single basic sequence of information on the dangerous goods transport document with effect from January 1, 2007 by amending Part 5, Chapter 4 as indicated below and, advise the UNCOE of this action.

### 4.1.4.1 *Dangerous Goods Description*

The dangerous goods transport document must contain the following information for each dangerous substance, material or article offered for transport:

- a) the UN number preceded by the letters "UN";
- b) the proper shipping name, as determined according to 3;1.2;
- c) the class or, when assigned, the division of the goods, including for Class 1, the compatibility group letter. Any assigned subsidiary hazard class or division number(s) must be entered following the numerical hazard class or division and must be enclosed in parenthesis. The words "class" or "division" may be included preceding the primary or subsidiary hazard class or division numbers;
- d) where assigned, the packing group for the substance or article which may be preceded by "PG" (e.g. "PG II).

### 4.1.4.2 *Sequence of the dangerous goods description*

The dangerous goods description specified in 4.1.4.1 must be shown either in sequence a), b), c), d), or in sequence b), c), a), d), with no information interspersed, except as provided in these Instructions. Examples of such permitted dangerous goods descriptions are:

"UN 1717 Acetyl alcohol 3 (8) II" or  
"Acetyl alcohol, 3 (8), UN 1717, II"

These four elements of the basic dangerous goods description must always be provided in the order given above with no additional information interspersed.

*Note 1 - It is intended that from 1 January 2007, the dangerous goods description specified in 4.1.4.1 must be shown in sequence a), b), c), d). The sequence b), c), a), d) will no longer be accepted.*

*Note 2 - In addition to the requirements of these Instructions, other elements of information may be required by the appropriate national authority or for certain modes of transport (e.g. flash point for sea transport). Unless permitted or required by these Instructions, additional information must be placed after the dangerous goods description.*

*Note 3 - . . . ."*

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