



WORKING PAPER

**DANGEROUS GOODS PANEL (DGP)
MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP OF THE WHOLE**

Montréal, 15 to 19 October 2012

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

2.3: Part 3 — Dangerous Goods List, Special Provisions and Limited and Excepted Quantities

EXCEPTED QUANTITY PROVISIONS – ABSORBENT MATERIAL – COUNT OF PACKAGES

(Presented by CEFIC)

SUMMARY

Information about a proposal submitted by ICCA to the Forty-second session of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, 3 to 11 December 2012 in Geneva. The panel is kindly invited to discuss the proposal and to support it at the upcoming session of the UN-SCETDG.

Action by the DGP-WG is in paragraph 2.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) submitted a formal proposal concerning “*Amendment of the Excepted Quantity provisions regarding the use of absorbent material and marking*” to the upcoming 42nd session of the UN-SCETDG (December 2012). The proposal is attached in the appendix.

2. ACTION BY THE DGP-WG

2.1 CEFIC would like to invite the panel to discuss this document. It contains one proposal regarding the placement of the absorbent material in the packaging (amendment of 3.5.2 of the Model Regulations) and one regarding the restriction of 1000 packages per transport unit (3.5.5 of the Model Regulations). The latter is of course not part of the Technical Instructions. The aim of the amendment is to provide a more efficient use of the provisions for excepted quantities without decreasing the level of safety.

APPENDIX

WORKING PAPER SUBMITTED BY THE ICCA TO THE 42ND SESSION OF THE UN SUB-COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

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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****Forty-second session**

Geneva, 3 – 11 December 2012

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**New proposals for amendments to the Model Regulations
on the Transport of Dangerous Goods****Excepted Quantity provisions regarding the use of absorbent
material and marking****Transmitted by the International Council of Chemical Associations
(ICCA)¹****Introduction**

1. In relation with the discussions regarding the implementation of new exemptions for environmentally hazardous substances at the forty-first session ICCA proposes considering two additional issues, which would apply to all classes and would not be limited to environmentally hazardous substances.

- (a) The location where the absorbent material is placed i.e. inside an intermediate packaging or inside an outer packaging;
- (b) The need for counting the number of packages and the limitation to 1000 packages per transport unit.

¹ In accordance with the programme of work of the Sub-Committee for 2011-2012 approved by the Committee at its fifth session (refer to ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/76, para. 116 and ST/SG/AC.10/38, para. 16).

Location of absorbent material

2. Instead of placing the absorbent material into the intermediate packaging it could also be placed into the outer packaging. Many end-users like dentists or physicians receive a wide variety of products, shipped as excepted quantities and they do not want to receive the absorbent material in the packaging they will eventually use i.e. the intermediate packaging. They indeed unpack the intermediate packagings from the outer packaging and use or store them in their laboratory or surgery. Therefore they do not want to have the absorbent material in the intermediate packaging but want to dispose of the absorbent material together with the outer packaging upon reception of the package. As the amount of absorbent material would be the same, this way of transporting offers the same level of safety.

3. If however an additional safety level would be judged necessary, a requirement for the inner package in the intermediate packaging (without the outer packaging) to withstand a drop test. This would eliminate the risk of any leakage.

Proposal 1

4. ICCA therefore proposes amending section 3.5.2 as follows (new text underlined):

“3.5.2 Packagings

Packagings used for the transport of dangerous goods in excepted quantities shall be in compliance with the following:

(a) ... ;

(b) Each inner packaging shall be securely packed in an intermediate packaging with cushioning material in such a way that, under normal conditions of transport, it cannot break, be punctured or leak its contents. The intermediate packaging shall completely contain the contents in case of breakage or leakage, regardless of package orientation. For liquid dangerous goods, the intermediate packaging shall contain sufficient absorbent material to absorb the entire contents of the inner packaging. In such cases, the absorbent material may be the cushioning material. Dangerous goods shall not react dangerously with cushioning, absorbent material and packaging material or reduce the integrity or function of the materials;

Alternative 1

Cushioning material and/or absorbent material may instead be placed in the outer packaging of the intermediate packaging.

Alternative 2 (if a drop test for the inner packaging would be required)

In case the inner packaging in the intermediate package can withstand the drop test prescribed in 3.5.3, cushioning material and/or adsorbent material may be placed in the outer package instead of in the intermediate package.

(c) ... ;“

Number of packages

5. Another barrier for efficient use of the excepted quantity provisions for the distribution of consumer commodities is the limitation of the maximum number of packages in 3.5.5. In principle, we see no reason to limit the package number for these

extreme small amounts of substances per package, as the same amount can be shipped via road or ocean freight in less safe packages as Limited Quantities. The huge benefit of the EQ provisions is that it can be used for air and land transport without having to change the packagings. Therefore a limitation of the number of packages for road and sea transport is hard to understand.

6. Additionally the removal of the limitation to 1000 packages would have a beneficial impact on the environment (carbon footprint) as, especially for transports between manufacturing sites and distribution centers, full cargo loads could be achieved, herewith substantially decreasing the number of trips required.

7. In order to minimize the number of changes in the provisions, ICCA proposes introducing in 3.5.5 marking provisions for cargo transport units carrying more than 1.000 EQ packages. This is in line with the approach recently adopted for limited quantities, where the label applicable for the package was enlarged to be used as a placard. Consequentially the number of packages would no longer have to be indicated on a transport document as required in 3.5.6 if the transport unit would be marked according to 3.5.5.

8. Because of these extra provisions ICCA believes that this proposal provides an adequate level of safety.

Proposal 2

9. Therefore ICCA proposes amending sections 3.5.5 and 3.5.6 as follows (new text underlined):

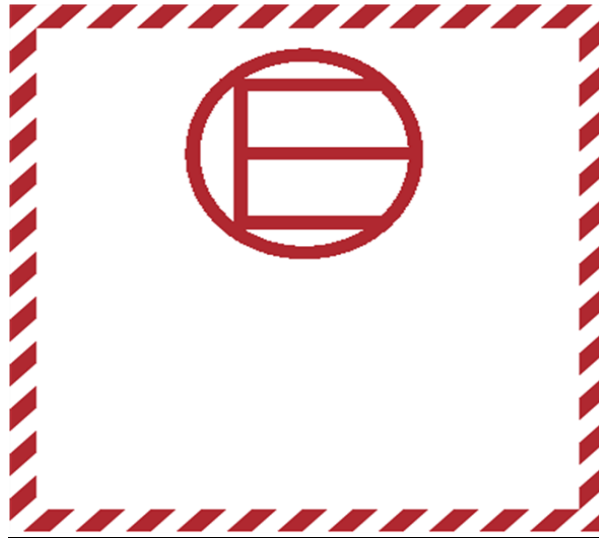
3.5.5 Maximum number of packages in any freight vehicle, railway freight wagon or multimodal freight container

The number of packages in any freight vehicle, railway freight wagon or multimodal freight container shall not exceed 1 000.

In case the number of packages exceeds 1000 or the number of packages is not counted, the transport units shall be marked with the mark shown in Figure 3.5.2 at the positions required for placards except when placards or marks in accordance with chapter 5.3 are displayed.

The dimensions of the placard shall be a minimum of 200 x 200 mm.

Figure 3.5.2



Excepted quantities mark

Hatching and symbol of the same color, black or red,
on white or suitable contrasting background

3.5.6 Documentation

If a document (such as a bill of lading or air waybill) accompanies dangerous goods in excepted quantities, it shall include the statement “Dangerous Goods in Excepted Quantities” and indicate the number of packages.

The number of packages needs not to be indicated, if the transport unit is marked in accordance with 3.5.5
