

**1999/62. Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 1995/6 of 19 July 1995 and 1997/3 of 18 July 1997,

*Bearing in mind* the increasing volume of dangerous goods in worldwide commerce and the rapid expansion of technology and innovation,

*Bearing in mind also* the continuing need to meet the growing concern for the protection of life, property and the environment through the safe transport of dangerous goods, while facilitating trade,

*Aware* that, in order to achieve internationally harmonized laws, the Economic Commission for Europe, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Maritime Organization and other specialized agencies and international organizations involved in activities related to the transport of dangerous goods and interested Member States have responded positively to the various resolutions adopted by the Council since 15 April 1953, and that, being committed to taking the recommendations of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods as a basis for the formulation of their requirements and regulations, including those concerning labelling and classification, those organizations therefore rely on the work of the Committee,

**A. WORK OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS DURING THE BIENNIUM 1997–1998**

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods during the biennium 1997–1998,<sup>176</sup> in particular regarding:

(a) The adoption of new and amended provisions<sup>177</sup> for inclusion in the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods*;<sup>178</sup>

(b) The completion of the second step in the reformatting of the existing *Recommendations* into model regulations annexed to a basic recommendation,<sup>177</sup> in particular:

- (i) The revision of provisions for the transport of dangerous goods in multimodal portable tanks;
- (ii) The inclusion of detailed packing instructions for transport in packagings, including intermediate bulk containers and large packagings;

(iii) The inclusion, in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency, of detailed provisions for the transport of radioactive material;

(c) The completion, pursuant to resolution 1995/6, of proposals for criteria for the classification of flammable, explosive and reactive materials, except for flammable aerosols, globally harmonized for various regulatory purposes,<sup>179</sup> in cooperation with the International Labour Organization in the context of the implementation of chapter 19 of Agenda 21;<sup>125</sup>

2. *Commends* the Secretary-General for the publication of the tenth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods*<sup>178</sup> in all the official languages of the United Nations and for the publication of the second revised edition of the *Manual of Tests and Criteria*<sup>180</sup> in Arabic and Chinese;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To circulate the new and amended recommendations to the Governments of Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the other international organizations concerned;

(b) To publish an eleventh revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods*, as amended, and a third revised edition of the *Manual of Tests and Criteria*, in all the official languages of the United Nations, in the most cost-effective manner, no later than the end of 1999;

(c) To envisage means of publishing the *Recommendations* on CD-ROM, if possible as a navigable version, for example, by commercial arrangement with external contractors;

4. *Invites* all Governments, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the other international organizations concerned to transmit to the Secretary-General their views on the work of the Committee, together with any comments that they may wish to make on the amended recommendations;

5. *Invites* all interested Governments, regional commissions and specialized agencies and the international organizations concerned, when developing or updating appropriate codes and regulations, to take full account of the recommendations of the Committee, in particular those referred to in paragraph 1 (b) above, including as regards the structure and format of such codes and regulations;

**B. PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 1999–2000**

6. *Approves* the programme of work of the Committee and its Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods for the biennium 1999–2000, as follows:

(a) Development of provisions for the transport of gases in gas cylinders and multiple-element gas containers;

<sup>176</sup> E/1999/43.

<sup>177</sup> See ST/SG/AC.10/25 and Add.1, Add.2, Add.3 and Corr.1 and Add.4 and Corr.1.

<sup>178</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.VIII.1.

<sup>179</sup> See ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/28/Add.3.

<sup>180</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.VIII.2.

(b) Review of provisions concerning documentation on the transport of dangerous goods;

(c) Follow-up to chapter 19 of Agenda 21<sup>125</sup> as regards harmonization of classification and labelling of chemicals, including development of criteria for the classification of flammable aerosols, in cooperation with the International Labour Organization, and implementation of already agreed criteria through the model regulations on the transport of dangerous goods;

(d) Miscellaneous amendments to the model regulations (listing and classification, explosives, lithium batteries, limited quantities, packaging issues, portable tank issues, consignment procedures, segregation) and to the *Manual of Tests and Criteria*;<sup>180</sup>

(e) Development of new provisions for the transport of solid substances in bulk in tanks and freight containers;

(f) Evolution of the model regulations (rationalized development of the model regulations and periodicity of amendments);

C. PERIODICITY OF AMENDMENTS TO THE  
*RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE TRANSPORT  
OF DANGEROUS GOODS*

7. *Takes note* of the advice of the Committee that:

(a) No firm decision as regards a possible future four-year periodicity of amendments should be taken during the period of alignment of the format of the various legal instruments concerning modal aspects of the transport of dangerous goods on that of the model regulations, and pending decisions regarding the implementation of the globally harmonized system of classification and labelling of chemicals in accordance with the objectives of Agenda 21;<sup>125</sup>

(b) A new revised version of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods*<sup>178</sup> should be published in 2001 after the session of the Committee in 2000;

8. *Notes with satisfaction* that this issue has been included in the programme of work of the Committee for the next biennium, for discussion, together with the question of the evolution of the model regulations in the long term;

D. REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Council in 2001 on the implementation of the present resolution.

*46th plenary meeting  
30 July 1999*