

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

**Working Party on the Transport
of Dangerous Goods**

(Seventy-first session
Geneva, 5-9 November 2001)

Transmitted by the Government of the Netherlands

Transport of fireworks.

Introduction

In the last session of the WP.15 an information-paper was presented by the Netherlands. The purpose of this paper was to inform the delegations about the problems concerning the transport of fireworks. At the same time the delegations were asked to fill in a questionnaire regarding to the different situations in the different countries with respect to the transport of fireworks, the use of a default-list and the differences between the classification for transport and storage. The Dutch delegation received a lot of questionnaires.

At this moment lot of actions have been started. It is very important that the outcome of these actions are to be taken into account for a proposal in the direction of the WP.15.

Therefore a proposal as promised shall be brought forward in the May-session next year.

This information document will inform the delegates about the progress that has been made until now.

UN-subcommittee

The UN subcommittee of Experts on the transport of Dangerous Goods agreed last July to discuss the problems related to the transport of fireworks in a working group. The group came together in Scheveningen, the Netherlands, from the 16th up to the 18th of October 2001. According to the mandate the WG discussed a Basic agreement of the interpretation of the test series 6 a), b), and c). Outcome was that exchange of experiences between competent authorities on the interpretation of test results should be recommended.

Furthermore there was a large discussion on the issue of a so called 'Default list'. The WG was in favour for the use of such a list. A concept list was discussed and

accepted by the WG. This list will be included in the report and sent to the Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee has to decide how to go on.

Joint meeting RID/ADR

In the Joint meeting a proposal made by the Netherlands was discussed in the September session concerning an authorisation-system for the transport of fireworks. That is to say that every transport for fireworks must be authorised by a competent authority from an ADR contracting party. Of course the WP.15 has to agree on the decision taken in the Joint Meeting. This authorisation-system has to be considered as an interim-regulation due to the fact that a more fundamental solution should be taken in the UN (Like a default-system – see above).

Interim-regulations in the Netherlands.

Although the work to enhance the safety during the transport of fireworks at the international level is in full progress it will take some time for new regulations to enter into force. Therefore the Netherlands decided to prepare "interim-regulations" concerning the transport of fireworks at the national level. The principle idea of these "interim-regulations" is that all the fireworks should be treated (for the time being) as 1.1G! This means that for the **national** transport the transport category is 1 (1.1.3.6.3 – N.E.M. = 20 Kg). Reason for this is that at this moment it is impossible for the enforcement-bodies to recognize a transport with fireworks 1.4S (No limit for the N.E.M. and therefore no plates and labels are required on the outside of the transportunit). Also the EX/II and EX/III vehicles should be required for all the fireworks with a N.E.M. above 20 kg.

For all the transport of fireworks with a N.E.M. above 20 kg. The transport through tunnels will be forbidden. Also a routing will be required.

At this moment the notification in Brussels is still going on. In November (after the WP.15) an EC-meeting in Brussels will be dealing with this notification. The outcome of this meeting will be very important for the proposal for the May-session WP.15 next year.

The Questionnaire.

The Netherlands received 10 filled-in questionnaires. We also visited a lot of countries. The outcome of this visits are taken into account dealing with analysing the questionnaires.

A short summary is now following:

1. Import from fireworks from: China (most of the fireworks are imported from China), Italy and Spain are the 2 countries from which a lot of fireworks are also imported. Further investigation is required!
2. All the reacting countries are aware off the problems with the classification of fireworks.

3. Most countries are using a kind of default-system! The basis therefore is not the transport legislation but different legislations like storage- or explosives-legislations.
4. Remarkable is that most of the repliers don't perform the Test series confirm the UN test criteria.
5. Non of the countries have dealt with an accident during the transport of fireworks!
6. A permit or special limits are known in the most countries for the transport or import of fireworks. For the legal basis see answer '3'.
7. The task of the importer difference a lot in the various countries. In most cases the importer is responsible for the correct classification of fireworks. This has to do with the default-systems in that countries.
8. The basis for the transport of fireworks is always ADR. In some cases additional (national) regulations are valid fore the transport of fireworks.
9. In half of the reactions was written that there is a difference between the classification for transport an for storage. It could be very interesting to work out this issue.
10. Confinement seems to be a recognized problem. As mentioned above a good description could not be given. An EC-project is in preparation.
11. None of the replies indicated an investigation concerning the transportclassification of fireworks related to the UN-(test)criteria. In the UN Working Group the outcome was that the experts were of the opinion that the UN-(Test)criteria are sufficient.

The Netherlands are planning to analyse the questionnaire more within a short time. It is possible that the Netherlands are willing to get some more information or visit some countries.

Conclusion:

A lot of work has been done at this moment. The outcome of some discussions will be following the next months. Based on these decisions the Netherlands will make a proposal for the May-session of the WP.15 next year.
