



INF. 12

11 November 2014

(English only)

RID: 4th Session of the RID Committee of Experts' standing working group
(Madrid, 17 - 20 November 2014)

Subject: Extension of the special provision for loading, unloading and handling of cargo
CW 36 to UN number 2211 POLYMERIC BEADS, EXPANDABLE, evolving flammable vapour

Transmitted by the Russian Federation

Introduction

1. According to information from one of the seaports in the Russian Far East, there was an incident associated with the unloading of a container of expandable polystyrene beads, which ignited and exploded. The product was manufactured in the Republic of Korea (manufacturer: BASF Ltd). The product is used as an industrial raw material for the manufacture of insulating material and comprises 7% foaming agent (pentane, isopentane).
2. Taking into account the possibility of the release of pentane or isopentane with the formation of an explosive gas mixture with air, and the possible build-up of static electricity, the product must comply with certain conditions specified by the manufacturer, which has experience of working with this material. To minimize the potential risk during loading and unloading, transport, storage and manufacture, the Safety Data Sheet for the product should provide for the obligatory presence of a good ventilation system, protection against heat and all sources of ignition. Furthermore, before unloading, the wagon should be ventilated for at least one hour.

3. In this regard, for UN 2211, column 18 of Table A "List of Dangerous Goods" in the current SMGS Annex 2 contains an additional code: CW 36.

"CW 36 Packages shall preferably be loaded in open or ventilated wagons or open or ventilated containers. If this is not feasible and packages are carried in other closed wagons or containers, the cargo doors of the wagons or containers shall be marked with the following in letters not less than 25 mm high:

"WARNING
NO VENTILATION
OPEN WITH CAUTION"

This shall be in a language considered appropriate by the consignor."

Proposal

4. In order to harmonise SMGS Annex 2 and RID, the standing working group is invited to consider the possibility of extending special provision CW 36 of RID Chapter 7.5 to consignments of UN 2211 (column 18 of Table A).

Justification

5. This alignment would improve transport safety and harmonise the requirements for the carriage of goods of UN number 2211 in countries with different legal regimes for the transport of dangerous goods.
