



institute of makers of explosives

PRESS RELEASE

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**UN Sub-Committee Supports IME's Proposal for
International Harmonization of Explosives Security Markings**

On Monday, July 4, 2016, the United Nations Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods approved, without opposition, a declaration of the importance of explosives security markings and recommended that such markings be internationally harmonized. The Sub-Committee publishes a set of model regulations that serve as the basis of hazardous materials transport safety regulations worldwide. The declaration serves as a positive action to enhance the security of explosives and packages containing explosives while they are being transported from manufacturers to distributors and users.

The Sub-Committee explains this recommendation in its draft report of its recently concluded 49th Session that took place at the UN European headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland as follows:

Since various countries throughout the world, including those within the European Union and North America, had implemented marking requirements containing unique security related identification information, and since these marks would appear on packages, and although these marking requirements were not directly linked to transport safety or security, the Sub-Committee agreed that it was important to provide recognition of the potential presence of this marking and to encourage an internationally consistent format to facilitate international and multimodal transport. Therefore the Sub-Committee agreed to include a note after paragraph 1.4.3.2.1 as proposed ...

This action is the culmination of work begun by the Institute of Makers of Explosives (IME) in 2013 and contributed to by the Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Agency (JIDA); the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF); the European Union (EU); the United States Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration; and the United Kingdom Department for Transport. Led by an original proposal from IME, delegations of the United States and United Kingdom jointly proposed slight revisions that rendered the proposal more appropriate for inclusion within the Sub-Committee's model regulations. It is anticipated that the new declaration will appear in the 20th Revision of the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations, due to be released in mid-2017.

The Sub-Committee intends that this new recognition of explosive security markings in transport will encourage officials worldwide that are responsible for explosives security to adopt an internationally harmonized format for such markings. Doing so, though not directly a transport

issue, will help to avoid shipping delays caused by divergent markings on packages of explosive, aid investigators in more reliable tracking of illicit use of explosives, and aid the explosives industry to more efficiently and securely move its products to legitimate users without having to manage multiple security markings dependent upon product destination. As IME's efforts continue in other forums where such security markings are developed, the acknowledgement by the UN Transport of Dangerous Goods Sub-Committee and recommendation to use an internationally harmonized format is a significant positive step forward in the global recognition and advancement of this critical security issue.

IME, which was founded in 1913, is the safety and security association of the commercial explosives industry. For more information on IME, visit www.ime.org.

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