



香港特別行政區政府  
民航處

Civil Aviation Department  
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

## **Dangerous Goods Advisory Circular     DGAC 3/2012**

### **Undeclared Mercury**

#### **Background**

Over the past six months, we have received three reports from foreign civil aviation authorities and airlines where consignments of **mercury** (UN 2809) on flights departed from Hong Kong were found leaking from their packages on arrival at their destinations.

The shipments were consigned to African destinations, Bamako, Mali and Khartoum, Sudan for these three cases. They were consigned as general cargo and declared as “Jewellery”, “Metal chains”, “Metal iron” or “Mould” on the air waybill.

According to the ICAO Technical Instructions, mercury is classified as Class 8, corrosive substance, and must be declared as UN2809 and packed in accordance with Packing Instructions 868. For all cases, the consignments of mercury were neither declared nor packed in accordance with the provisions in the ICAO Technical Instructions.

#### **Reminder**

When a consignment of mercury is not properly packaged and handled, in the event of leakage, its corrosive property will pose a significant hazard to the aircraft.

The Dangerous Goods Office would like to request all freight forwarders and airlines to exercise extra vigilance when accepting shipments of general cargo described as “Jewellery” or “Metal” or other

similar descriptions and in particular destined for locations described above. If there is any doubt, clarification from the shipper should be sought on the contents of the consignment prior to acceptance.

Finally, we highly recommend airlines, handling agents and freight forwarders to verify the contents of such shipments against the packing list and conduct physical checks if necessary.

In accordance with Dangerous Goods (Consignment by Air) (Safety) Regulations (Cap. 384A), shippers and freight forwarders shall not consign any dangerous goods unless the goods they consign are properly classified, packed, marked, labelled and declared. Persons consigning misdeclared, undeclared or forbidden dangerous goods are liable to a maximum fine of \$250,000 and imprisonment for 2 years.

Should you have any query about this circular, please contact Safety Officers (Dangerous Goods) at 2182 1221 or 2182 1214.

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