



WORKING PAPER

**DANGEROUS GOODS PANEL (DGP)
MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP OF THE WHOLE**

The Hague, 3 to 7 November 2008

Agenda Item 2: Development of recommendations for amendments to the *Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air* (Doc 9284) for incorporation in the 2011/2012 Edition

2.8: Part 8 — Provisions Concerning Passengers and Crew

**CARRIAGE OF ENERGY EFFICIENT LIGHT BULBS CONTAINING MERCURY BY
PASSENGERS**

(Presented by M. Evans)

SUMMARY

This working paper proposes an amendment to the passenger provisions to allow passengers to carry energy efficient light bulbs containing mercury.

Action by the DGP-WG is in paragraph 2.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Many countries are now encouraging home owners to replace existing filament type light bulbs with the new generation energy efficient light bulbs. These light bulbs all contain a small amount of mercury and are therefore classified as UN 2809, Mercury contained in manufactured equipment. As these articles are classified as dangerous goods they are not permitted to be carried by passengers or crew.

1.2 Special Provision A69 has been assigned to UN 2809 and states “Articles, each containing not more than 100 mg of mercury, gallium or inert gas and packaged so that the quantity of mercury, gallium or inert gas per package does not exceed 1 g, are not subject to these Instructions when carried as cargo. The words “not restricted” and the special provision number A69 must be provided on the air waybill when an air waybill is issued.”

1.3 Energy efficient light bulbs each contain on average about 4 mg of mercury vapour, well below the 100 mg allowed for in Special Provision A69. Thanks to technology advances and a commitment from members of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association, the average mercury

content has dropped at least 20 percent in the past year. Some manufacturers have made even further reductions, dropping the mercury content to 1.4 – 2.5 mg per light bulb.

1.4 In New Zealand the Aviation Security Service has seen an increasing number of passengers attempting to carry these articles in their carry-on and checked baggage. As these articles are classified as dangerous goods and are not permitted for carriage by passengers, they have been confiscated. This is difficult to justify, considering that similar articles with higher mercury content may be transported as cargo under Special Provision A69.

2. ACTION BY THE DGP-WG

2.1 The DGP-WG is invited to:

- a) add the following paragraph to 8;1.1.2:

Energy efficient light bulbs when in retail packaging intended for personal or home use;

or

- b) amend Special Provision A69 by removing the words “when carried as cargo” to read:

A69 Articles, each containing not more than 100 mg of mercury, gallium or inert gas and packaged so that the quantity of mercury, gallium or inert gas per package does not exceed 1 g, are not subject to these Instructions ~~when carried as cargo~~. The words “not restricted” and the special provision number A69 must be provided on the air waybill when an air waybill is issued.

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