



**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**

**ELECTROSHOCK WEAPONS (TASER) CARRIED BY PASSENGERS**

(Presented by D. Brennan)

**SUMMARY**

This paper invites the panel to consider revisions to Part 8 of the Technical Instructions to identify conditions for the carriage of electroshock weapons.

Action by the DGP-WG is in paragraph 2.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Electroshock weapons (generally referred to by the Trade name “Taser”) are becoming widely used by law enforcement personnel as an alternative to a firearm. Some States also allow non-law enforcement personnel to own and carry such electroshock weapons. As such airlines are now either being requested to approve carriage of Tasers or are discovering Tasers as a result of security screening of passenger checked and/or carry-on baggage.

1.2 Early versions of these weapons used a nickel metal hydride battery, however newer versions use a lithium battery. Both the older type and newer models have a cylinder of compressed Nitrogen that propels the small probes that deliver the electrical charge.

1.3 Carriage of electroshock weapons by passengers is subject to aviation security considerations and therefore any carriage of a Taser in the cabin will be restricted to “Sky Marshalls” or other law enforcement personnel who hold the necessary approvals from the State of the Operator.

1.4                However, when in checked baggage, the presence of dangerous goods in the form of the lithium battery and nitrogen cartridge would make the carriage of Tasers a safety issue and therefore subject to the Technical Instructions.

## **2.        ACTION BY THE DGP-WG**

2.1                The DGP-WG is invited to consider if provisions should be added into Part 8;1.1.1 specifically identifying the conditions under which electroshock weapons such as Tasers may be carried in passenger checked baggage only.

2.2                Based on the comments received a working paper may be prepared for DGP-WG/09.

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