



WORKING PAPER

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

The Hague, 3 to 7 November 2008

Agenda Item 6: Miscellaneous dangerous goods issues

“FAST TRACK” NOTIFICATION MECHANISM AND AMENDMENT PROCESS

(Presented by the Secretary)

SUMMARY

The need for a “fast track” notification mechanism and amendment process for the Technical Instructions is raised.

Action by the DGP-WG is in paragraph 2.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 During the Council’s review (184-2) of the proposed amendment to the Technical Instructions with regard to mixtures containing ethyl chloride, it was suggested that the Secretariat could be empowered to issue Technical Instructions of an interim nature to prohibit the transport of such mixtures whilst waiting for a Council decision. Although there was support in principle for such a measure which might prevent accidents occurring before Council could deliberate on such safety-based issues, the Secretariat was requested also to investigate the development of some means of more urgent notification, such as an advisory circular or NOTAM, rather than waiting for the formal process. It should be noted that NOTAM (Notification to airmen) is defined in Annex 15 – *Aeronautical Information Services* as being “a notice distributed by means of telecommunication containing information concerning the establishment, condition or change in any aeronautical facility, service, procedure or hazard, the timely knowledge of which is essential to personnel concerned with flight operations.”

1.2 In addition to the need for a “fast track” notification mechanism, the Air Navigation Commission (ANC), during its earlier review (178-2) of the same topic, agreed there was a need for a “fast track” amendment procedure for the Technical Instructions when urgent safety-based amendments were recommended and instructed the Secretariat to study the issue further.

2. ACTION BY THE DGP-WG

2.1 The DGP-WG is invited to discuss optimum mechanisms to disseminate information and to amend the Technical Instructions when urgent, safety-based issues are raised. With regard to the amendment procedure, comments are sought on the desirability of issuing an interim amendment which might be based on the President of the Council being given delegated authority to make such an amendment, on condition that the issue would be raised for discussion by the ANC and Council at the earliest opportunity.

2.2 The working group is further asked to consider specifying conditions under which the Secretary should raise safety-based amendments with the ANC e.g. the nature of what constitutes an urgent safety-based need, whether unanimous agreement of the panel members is required and the maximum time to seek approval from all panel members.

2.3 A working paper will be presented to the ANC during its next (180th) session.

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