



WORKING PAPER

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

The Hague, 3 to 7 November 2008

Agenda Item 4: Amendments to the *Emergency Response Guidance for Aircraft Incidents involving Dangerous Goods* (Doc 9481)

DRILL CODE FOR LITHIUM BATTERIES

(Presented by G. A. Leach)

SUMMARY

This paper refers to a discussion during DGP/21 concerning the measures which should be taken in the event of a fire in the cabin involving lithium batteries in equipment and whether a drill code of 9W is appropriate for all lithium battery entries.

Action by the DGP-WG is in paragraph 2.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 At DGP/21 the *Emergency Response Guidance for Aircraft Incidents involving Dangerous Goods* (Doc 9481) was expanded to address the measures which should be taken in the event of a fire in the cabin involving lithium batteries in equipment. These included the use of water or other cold liquids to cool the device after the initial fire has been extinguished.

1.2 The attention of the United Kingdom CAA has been drawn to an apparent anomaly between the new guidance and the existing drill code for all lithium batteries entries, namely “9W” meaning “No general inherent risk” and “If wet gives off poisonous or flammable gas”.

1.3 The *Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air, 2009-2010 Edition* (Doc 9284) contains new proper shipping names for the various types of lithium batteries and it is assumed these will all have been assigned a drill code of 9W.

2. ACTION BY THE DGP-WG

2.1 The DGP-WG is invited to consider whether a drill code of 9W is appropriate for all lithium battery entries. It is understood there is no metallic lithium in a lithium-ion battery and so “9L” may be more appropriate for such batteries including when contained in equipment. The working group may also wish to consider whether the known flammable properties of lithium batteries should be reflected in the drill code, for example it may be appropriate for (primary) lithium batteries to have a drill code of 9FW, and lithium-ion batteries to be assigned 9F.

2.2 No proposals are made in this working paper; depending on the result of discussion a further paper may be prepared for consideration at WG09.

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