DANGEROUS GOODS PANEL (DGP)

MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP OF THE WHOLE

Montreal, 18 to 22 April 2005

(Presented by the Secretary)

Tel.: +1 (514) 954-8219 ext. 8099

Ref.: SP 34/1-IND/05/7 29 April 2005

Subject: Invitation to the Twentieth Meeting of the Dangerous Goods Panel (DGP)

Action required: Confirm acceptance of invitation by 12 August 2005

Sir/Madam,

1. I have the honour to inform you that the Air Navigation Commission, at the eighth meeting of its 168th Session on 22 February 2005, agreed to convene the twentieth meeting of the Dangerous Goods Panel (DGP) in Montreal from 24 October to 4 November 2005. The Commission also agreed that the working languages of the meeting will be English, French, Russian and Spanish.

2. The agenda approved by the Commission for the meeting is reproduced in Attachment A.

3. On behalf of the Air Navigation Commission, the Secretary General extends to you an invitation for the panel member who was nominated by your Government/Organization, and any advisers assigned to assist the member, to attend this meeting. In this connection, the opportunity is taken to recall that in accordance with the *Directives for Panels of the Air Navigation Commission* (Doc 7984):

a) while panel members may be accompanied by advisers, the number of advisers shall be kept to a minimum;

b) no nominations are accepted by the Air Navigation Commission for alternates to members. If it is necessary to replace a member temporarily, the Commission will authorize such a temporary replacement, at the request of the respective member or nominator; and

c) panels normally do not include persons having the status of "observer" and in no case are advisers to observers recognized as panel participants. However, if a State or an international organization wishes to designate a person as an observer to a specific meeting of a panel, it will inform ICAO, providing an indication of the qualifications of the designated person.

4. Documentation for the meeting should be forwarded to ICAO Headquarters, Montreal, as soon as practicable and should be received by the panel secretary no later than 12 August 2005 in order to permit, to the extent possible, translation, reproduction and dissemination to other participants in time for full consideration before the meeting. The working papers are to be produced in electronic format as indicated in Attachment B and sent as an e-mail attachment to the panel secretary at KRooney@icao.int and copied to CGonzalez@icao.int. You are further invited to submit papers in more than one language of the meeting, if you are in a position to do so.

5. Concerning the latter aspect, translation of material by ICAO for panels of the Air Navigation Commission will be limited to proposals for Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), Procedures for Air Navigation Services (PANS) and the *Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air* (Doc 9284) only, with a covering page containing the summary box and action paragraph. Furthermore, it has become increasingly difficult for the Organization to process voluminous and/or late panel documentation in time for the respective meetings. As a matter of policy, therefore, and in order to achieve ICAO's reduced printing impression target, papers for panels of the Air Navigation Commission exceeding four pages in print, not counting the amendment proposal itself, will normally not be accepted.

6. In compliance with Annex 9 — *Facilitation*, paragraph 3.14 , Canada has already dispensed with the requirement for entry visas for temporary visitors from many States. However, some nationals continue to require visas for entry into Canada. Any participant requiring a visa should take steps to obtain it in good time from the nearest Canadian authorities. Furthermore, in order to facilitate entry formalities upon arrival in Canada, it is suggested that participants carry with them a copy of the document notifying them that they have been designated by their State/Organization to attend the ICAO panel meeting in the capacity of expert, and that they so identify themselves to the Canadian immigration authorities.

7. It would be appreciated if your confirmation of acceptance of this invitation, together with the names of those attending, could be forwarded to reach the Secretary General by 12 August 2005.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Enclosures:

A — Agenda for the twentieth meeting of DGP
B — Information exchange guidelines

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