International Civil Aviation Organization

WORKING PAPER

DGP-WG/05-WP/41
1/4/05

DANGEROUS GOODS PANEL (DGP)

MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP OF THE WHOLE

Montreal, 18 to 22 April 2005

Agenda Item 2: Development of recommendations for amendments to the *Technical Instructions* for incorporation in the 2007/2008 edition
2.2: Part 2 — Classification

PACKAGING FOR EXEMPT HUMAN/ANIMAL SPECIMENS

(Presented by J. Abouchaar)

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 WP/3 sets out the draft amendments to Part 2 of the Technical Instructions based on changes to the UN Model Regulations. Included in WP/3 on pages 21 and 22 is text proposing the introduction of provisions for "Exempt human specimens" and "Exempt animal specimens" and recommended packaging for these substances?

1.2 These exempt specimens are what were previously classified as "diagnostic specimens" in the 2001-2002 edition of the Technical Instructions. Diagnostic specimens at that time were:

> "those where a relatively low probability exists that pathogens of risk groups 2 or 3 are present. Specimens transported for the purpose of initial diagnosis for other than the presences of pathogens or specimens transported for routine screening tests fall within this group."

1.3 The 2002-2002 Technical Instructions also mandated packaging for these diagnostic specimens, being Packing Instruction 650. The UN text as proposed in WP/3 only has the packaging for the exempt specimens as a recommended standard not as a mandatory one.

1.4 Given the significant amount of discussion that has taken place over the changes to Division 6.2 over the course of the last few years and some of the concerns expressed by regulators and operators it would seem appropriate to have packaging for these exempt specimens made mandatory. A mandatory standard of packaging would minimise the likelihood of leaks or spills during transport.

2. PROPOSAL

2.1 Amend the text proposed in WP/3, 6.3.2.3.6 as follows:

6.3.2.3.6 Human or animal specimens for which there is minimal likelihood that pathogens are present are not subject to these Regulations if the specimen is transported in a packaging which will prevent any leakage and which is marked with the words "Exempt human specimen" or "Exempt animal specimen", as appropriate. The packaging ~~should~~ must meet the following conditions:

a) The packaging ~~should~~ must consist of three components as follows:

(i) a leak-proof primary receptacle(s);
(ii) a leak-proof secondary packaging; and
(iii) an outer packaging of adequate strength for its capacity, mass and intended use, and with at least one surface having minimum dimensions of 100 mm × 100 mm;

b) For liquids, absorbent material in sufficient quantity to absorb the entire contents ~~should~~ must be placed between the primary receptacle(s) and the secondary packaging so that, during transport, any release or leak of a liquid substance will not reach the outer packaging and will not compromise the integrity of the cushioning material;

c) When multiple fragile primary receptacles are placed in a single secondary packaging, they ~~should~~ must be either individually wrapped or separated to prevent contact between them.

NOTE. — An element of professional judgment is required to determine if a substance is exempt under this paragraph. That judgment should be based on the known medical history, symptoms and individual circumstances of the source, human or animal, and endemic local conditions. Examples of specimens which may be transported under this paragraph include the blood or urine tests to monitor cholesterol levels, blood glucose levels, hormone levels, or prostate specific antibodies (PSA); those required to monitor organ function such as heart, liver or kidney function for humans or animals with non-infectious diseases, or therapeutic drug monitoring; those conducted for insurance or employment purposes and are intended to determine the presence of drugs or alcohol; pregnancy test; biopsies to detect cancer; and antibody detection in humans or animals.

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