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ASSEMBLY — 42ND SESSION

TECHNICAL COMMISSION

Agenda Item 25: Other issues to be considered by the Technical Commission

UPDATES ON THE RECTIFICATION OF THE ARABIC INTERPRETATION OF THE TERM “DANGEROUS GOODS”

(Presented by the United Arab Emirates)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This working paper provides an update on the rectification of the Arabic interpretation of the term “Dangerous Goods” in ICAO documentation, following the recommendations made during the 39th Session of the ICAO Assembly, A39-WP/157. The report of the A39 recommended that the Arabic translation of “Dangerous Goods” should be changed to ensure it cannot be interpreted as “Dangerous Cargo,” thereby narrowing the intended scope. Subsequently, the Arabic translation of the term “Dangerous Goods” would need to be amended in all ICAO documents that refer to the term. Since the ICAO documents cannot be modified until the terminology is first changed in the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods - Model Regulations to ensure multi-modal harmonization, a proposal for change therefore will be communicated by the Secretariat of ICAO DGP to the United Nations Economic and Social Council's Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

<i>Strategic Goals:</i>	This working paper relates to <i>Every Flight is Safe and Secure</i> .
<i>Financial implications:</i>	N/A
<i>References:</i>	Annex 18 — <i>The Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air</i> Doc 10075, <i>Assembly resolutions in force (as of 6 October 2016)</i> Doc 9284, <i>Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air</i> A39-WP/157, <i>Rectification of the current Arabic interpretation to the term “dangerous goods”</i>

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 During the 39th Session of the ICAO Assembly, the United Arab Emirates presented a working paper (A39-WP/157) proposing the rectification of the Arabic interpretation of the term “Dangerous Goods.” The Assembly acknowledged the need for this change to address the misleading interpretation of the term as “Dangerous Cargo,” which limited its scope to cargo only, excluding provisions for passengers, crew, and mail.

1.2 The report of the A39 recommended that the Arabic translation of “Dangerous Goods” should be changed to ensure it cannot be interpreted as “Dangerous Cargo,” thereby narrowing the intended scope. Subsequently, the Arabic translation of the term “Dangerous Goods” would need to be amended in all ICAO documents that refer to the term.

1.3 Following the Assembly’s recommendations, the United Arab Emirates actively pursued the matter with the ICAO Dangerous Goods Panel (DGP) to seek views from its members. The proposal was agreed upon by the DGP members, confirming the need for rectification.

1.4 The United Arab Emirates also engaged with the ICAO Translation Office to explain the challenges associated with the current misinterpretation and emphasized the importance of addressing this issue promptly.

2. PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

2.1 Progress made

2.1.1 The United Arab Emirate’s proposal was endorsed by the ICAO DGP, reflecting consensus among experts on the need for rectification.

2.1.2 Discussions with the ICAO Translation Office clarified the challenges and paved the way for implementing the revised interpretation.

2.1.3 Since the ICAO documents cannot be modified until the terminology is first changed in the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods - Model Regulations to ensure multi-modal harmonization, a proposal for change therefore will be communicated by the Secretariat of ICAO DGP to the United Nations Economic and Social Council's Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

2.2 Challenges encountered

2.2.1 The rectification process has been slower than anticipated, with delays in updating ICAO documentation to reflect the revised Arabic interpretation.

2.2.2 Member States require updated ICAO documents to align their national regulations and training materials with the revised terminology.

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