



International Civil Aviation Organization

WORKING PAPER

A42-WP/624

TE/243

12/9/25

(Information paper)

English and Chinese only¹

ASSEMBLY — 42ND SESSION

TECHNICAL COMMISSION

Agenda Item 24: Aviation Safety and Air Navigation Priority Initiatives

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF E-LICENSING IN AIR TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS FOR SERVICE EFFICIENCY

(Presented by China)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper introduces the electronic approval process for dangerous goods air transport permits in China's civil aviation sector. By clearly defining the permit handling procedures and relying on the Civil Aviation Data Sharing and Exchange Platform, this process enables full-process online handling, covering application, acceptance, processing, completion, public announcement, and whole-process inquiry, making approval services more standardized and user-friendly

<i>Strategic Goals:</i>	This working paper relates to <i>Economic Development of Air Transport Assures the Delivery of Economic Prosperity and Social Well-being for All</i> .
<i>Financial implications:</i>	No additional resources required.
<i>References:</i>	Annex 18 — <i>The Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air</i>

¹ English and Chinese versions provided by China.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The air transport of dangerous goods plays a crucial role in supporting economic and social development and meeting people's living needs. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has formulated relevant regulations and requirements for the air transport of dangerous goods. Any country wishing to engage in international air transport of dangerous goods must comply with these universally accepted rules. The permit for air transport of dangerous goods serves as a key means to ensure that such operations within a country align with international regulatory requirements, and it also provides an important foundation for facilitating the smooth and compliant cross-border transportation of dangerous goods.

1.2 As a key component of the dangerous goods air transport process, carriers play a critical role in ensuring the safety of such transport. They undertake important tasks including verifying the compliance of shippers' cargo and checking the compatibility of dangerous goods with the carrying capacity of aircraft. Therefore, it is essential to implement a permit approval system for carriers engaged in the air transport of dangerous goods and mail containing dangerous items that can effectively establish an access threshold for air transport of dangerous goods, maintain market order, and ensure aviation safety.

1.3 The traditional paper-based approval process is plagued by issues such as lengthy time required for application, slow processing, and low information transparency, making it inadequate to meet the development needs of air transport and inconsistent with ICAO's overall strategic goals. In response, the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) has initiated the Dangerous Goods Air Transport Management System under the Smart Supervision and Service Project. This system enables full-process electronic approval of dangerous goods air transport permits for all carriers, playing a positive role in optimizing resource allocation, enhancing collaboration among stakeholders, and improving supervision efficiency.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Detailed and clear operating procedures have been developed for all stages of the dangerous goods air transport permit approval process, including the checklist of application materials, acceptance criteria, items for review, application acceptance process, and time limits. These procedures ensure the fairness, objectivity, and timeliness of approval results, while laying a theoretical basis and practical foundation for the digitalization of the transport permit approval process.

2.2 To enhance operational convenience, the permit application process has been streamlined by reducing the materials that need to be submitted by applicants and clarifying that foreign carriers are not required to obtain route operation permits prior to applying for dangerous goods air transport permits, i.e. they may apply for both permits simultaneously to shorten the time for material preparation. Additionally, the validity period of foreign carriers' non-scheduled dangerous goods transport permits can now be extended on demand, significantly enhancing the practicality of dangerous goods transport permits for foreign carriers.

2.3 To facilitate advance planning by carriers, the procedures specify a series of handling time limits: for example, the entire approval process shall be completed within 20 days (extendable by 10 days in case of special circumstances); permits shall be issued to carriers within 10 days after the approval decision is made; and applicants shall be notified of any missing materials in one go within 5 days. This

measure has effectively improved administrative efficiency while enhancing the quality and credibility of government services.

2.4 The electronic approval platform for transport permits has embedded a standardized approval workflow, which progresses sequentially through the stages of application, acceptance, review, and decision-making. Access rights are defined and operational guidelines provided for each stage to guide applicants and approvers in operating in accordance with the established process, and thereby ensure the consistency and standardization of the approval process.

2.5 The digitalization of the transport permit approval process has eliminated barriers of time and space, allowing applicants to submit application materials online at any time without the need for in-person visits, reducing the time and cost of travel. Meanwhile, approval authorities receive, process, and circulate application information online, enabling information-based management of all stages including application, acceptance, processing, completion, public announcement and whole-process inquiry. This has shortened the approval cycle and improved approval efficiency.

2.6 There are numerous entities involved in dangerous goods air transport, including shippers, carriers, and airports. The procedures specify that information regarding the issuance and modification of carriers' dangerous goods permits can be accessed through official channels. This approach enables all parties to obtain relevant information via legal means, ensures timely information sharing, helps strengthen collaborative cooperation among different entities in the dangerous goods air transport process, and ensures a smoother and more efficient overall transport process.

2.7 The implementation of the electronic approval process for transport permits helps standardize dangerous goods air transport activities and ensure air transport safety. At the same time, it provides enterprises with a more convenient permit approval method, which is conducive to promoting the healthy development of the air transport industry and better serving the broader needs of international economic and social development.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 The diversified growth in demand for dangerous goods transport has spurred the development of a more efficient transport permit approval mechanism. Through workflow optimization and automated processing, the electronic approval process has significantly improved approval efficiency. It not only ensures the safety of dangerous goods transport but also provides efficient and convenient government services, achieving an organic balance between safety and development and creating favourable conditions for air cargo enterprises to swiftly respond to market demands.

— END —