



WORKING PAPER

ASSEMBLY — 41ST SESSION

TECHNICAL COMMISSION

Agenda Item 33: Other issues to be considered by the Technical Commission

UAE INITIATIVE DANGEROUS GOODS COMPETENCY VALIDATION CERTIFICATION COURSE (COVAL)

(Presented by the United Arab Emirates)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This working paper is to share the UAE innovative and unique initiative “Dangerous Goods Competency Validation Certification (COVAL)” for Dangerous Goods Regulations Training Instructors and Dangerous Goods Post Holders and under the banner of UAE GCAA Dangerous Goods Certification Program, to support and align with the UAE plan concerning the implementation of ICAO Dangerous Goods Competency-Based Training and Assessment (CBTA) in the UAE, and which shall take effect from 1 January 2023.

Action: The Assembly is invited to:

- a) in line with ICAO's "No Country Left Behind" programme, the Assembly is invited to note the contents of this working paper, that the UAE will share the COVAL Material with ICAO Global Aviation Training (GAT) Section once the material is mature. Both ICAO GAT and ICAO Member States may benefit from COVAL;
- b) note the UAE's willingness to offer free seats in every COVAL Course starting from Q3 of 2023 to ICAO Member States to learn about and benefit from COVAL; and
- c) request the ICAO DGP to consider incorporating the COVAL approach/concept into the Supplement of the Technical Instructions as an example/guidance to States to assess dangerous goods training instructor's competency.

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	This working paper relates to Strategic Objectives on Safety.
<i>Financial implications:</i>	This working paper has no financial implications.
<i>References:</i>	UAE Civil Aviation Regulations CAR Part VI. Doc 9284, <i>Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air</i>

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 As defined in the UAE State Variations AE-2 of the ICAO Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air “UAE originating dangerous goods shipments shall only be offered and accepted for air transport by a GCAA dangerous goods certified entity according to the GCAA dangerous goods certification requirements as defined in the UAE Civil Aviation Regulations (CAR Part VI, Chapter 2)”.

1.2 The Dangerous Certification Program is the UAE tool to ensure effective implementation of UAE State Variations AE-2, manages and continuously monitoring stakeholders’ overall level of compliance with the regulations to ensure the safe transport of dangerous goods by air. This includes the certification of A6 registered Air Operators, Ground Handling Agents, Freight Forwarders, Postal Operators, Packaging Suppliers, Dangerous Goods Post Holder (DGPH), Training Providers and Dangerous Goods Regulations Training Instructors.

1.3 As per the current UAE Civil Aviation Regulations:

1.3.1 The nominated instructor to deliver DGR Category-6 training course must undergo GCAA written knowledge validation examination. Upon successful completion of the examination, the GCAA officials observe the classroom training sessions. In case of unsuccessful examination attempt, a resit examination shall be allowed within three months of the result. The resit examination result shall be final. The point to be noted is that GCAA written knowledge validation examination is not required for instructors nominated to deliver DGR training courses other than Category 6.

1.3.2 As for the DGPH, all GCAA Dangerous Goods certified UAE registered Air Operators including “no-carry” Air Operators, Ground Handling Agents, Helicopter Operators, Designated Postal Operators, Freight Forwarder and Packaging Suppliers shall:

- a) nominate a Dangerous Goods Post Holder and communicate their contact details to GCAA;
- b) ensure that the DGPH is holding a valid DGR Category 3, 5 or 6 training certificate as a minimum;
- c) ensure that the DGPH is available as and when required. In such cases when the DGPH is not available, their responsibilities must be delegated and GCAA must be informed about such delegation;
- d) communicate any change in the status of the DGPH immediately to the General Civil Aviation Authority; and
- e) obtain GCAA approval before the DGPH commence their duties and responsibilities. The GCAA approval for the DGPH shall include a face-to-face interview to collect the comprehensive understanding and verify the minimum qualifications of the nominated DGPH, referred to in these Regulations, etc.

1.3.3 The UAE initiative “Dangerous Goods Competency Validation Certification Course (COVAL) shall replace our current approach to approval of Instructors and DGPH referred to in paragraphs 1.3.1 and 1.3.2 of this working paper.

2. THE UAE COVAL INITIATIVE

2.1 COVAL is the UAE GCAA tool to assess and validate the knowledge, skills and attitude for personnel delivering dangerous goods regulations training and personnel performing the functions of dangerous goods post holder, as defined in the UAE Civil Aviation Regulations.

2.2 Based on the outcome of our dangerous goods oversight and occurrences investigations, we identified dangerous goods regulations training related deficiencies, where some of which resulted from lack of training and improper quality of the dangerous goods knowledge being delivered to trainees "in some cases". So this found to be a key contributing factor in such deficiencies, hence we decided to take a proactive approach to address this issue by ensuring the effectiveness of knowledge being delivered hence a special attention was given to the qualifications of the personnel delivering dangerous goods regulations training and dangerous goods post holders.

2.3 Consequently, the transformation to Dangerous Goods CBTA found to be a very good opportunity to further enhance our approach to validation examination to dangerous goods training instructors and the approval of dangerous goods post holders through the implementation of a more effective approach to validate their competency by assessing their Knowledge, Skills and Attitude in a form of Competency Validation Certification Course (GCAA Dangerous Goods COVAL Certification Course – Classroom and Virtual), and which will be managed by GCAA jointly with the International Aviation Consulting & Training (IACT). Which means that:

- a) Effective Jan 2023, Dangerous Goods Regulations Training Instructors shall undergo:
GCAA COVAL Certification Course – Initial | 3 Days
GCAA COVAL Certification Course – Recurrent | 2 Days, every 24 months.
- b) Effective Jan 2024, Dangerous Goods Post Holders shall undergo:
GCAA COVAL Certification Course – Initial | 3 Days
GCAA COVAL Certification Course – Recurrent | 2 Days, every 24 months.

2.4 Implementation of COVAL no doubt shall improve the safe transport of dangerous goods by air in several aspects such as but not limited to the following:

- a) trainees shall receive a proper training which will provide them the details required to understand legislative requirements governing the transportation of dangerous goods;
- b) shall provide trainees with the appropriate and adequate information required to help them ship, receive, and deliver dangerous goods safely and with ease. Also, will makes it easy to handle sensitive items if an emergency sets in at the workplace;
- c) employees tasked with keeping the supply chain running will be liable for any failure result in dangerous goods safety deficiency. Therefore, preventing dangerous goods occurrences while ensuring smooth-running operations is why everyone need high-quality dangerous goods training; and
- d) significantly contribute into further enhancing dangerous goods safety culture.

2.5 The COVAL initiative has been appreciated by industry stakeholders during the face to face sessions conducted by GCAA on 17th Feb, 02nd Mar and 17th Mar 2022, for stakeholders to guide them through GCAA approach to implementation of CBTA in the UAE to ensure smooth transformation to CBTA and emphasize the importance to:

- a) standardize the approach to CBTA in the UAE, through;
- b) reaching consensus with GCAA Partners/stakeholders, concerning;
- c) the identification of the most appropriate, realistic and implementable CBTA framework; and
- d) address the challenges associated with the implementation, to; Ensure smooth transformation to Dangerous Goods CBTA.

3. **BENEFITS OF UAE COVAL**

3.1 Innovative, unique and proactive approach to improve Dangerous Goods safety culture within stakeholders in the UAE and globally.

3.2 Shall ensure that instructors of initial and recurrent dangerous goods training programs will be assessed as competent in instruction and the function(s) that they will instruct prior to delivering such a dangerous goods training program.

3.3 Establishing a more effective and efficient tool for GCAA to assess and validate the knowledge, skills and attitude for personnel delivering dangerous goods regulations training and dangerous goods post holders.

3.4 A very good opportunity to evolve and further enhance the quality of knowledge being delivered to trainees, their skills and attitude levels.

3.5 Improve the overall level of compliance with the Dangerous Goods Regulations within the UAE.

3.6 Enable the identification of potential gap/deficiency in the dangerous goods regulatory system within the State and resolve them.