



WORKING PAPER

DANGEROUS GOODS PANEL (DGP)

TWENTY-SECOND MEETING

Montréal, 5 to 16 October 2009

Agenda Item 4: Amendments to the *Emergency Response Guidance for Aircraft Incidents involving Dangerous Goods (Doc 9481)* for incorporation in the 2011-2012 Edition

EMERGENCY RESPONSE DRILL CODE FOR UN 3291 AND UN 3373

(Presented by D. Brennan)

SUMMARY

Biomedical waste, Clinical waste and Medical waste, UN 3291 and Biological substance, Category B, UN 3373 are currently assigned Drill Code 6L. This working paper proposes a revision to the drill code to more correctly reflect the actual risk and applicable response.

Action by the DGP: The DGP is invited to revise the drill code assigned to **Biomedical waste, n.o.s., Clinical waste, unspecified, n.o.s. and Medical waste, n.o.s., UN 3291 and Biological substance, Category B, UN 3373** in the alphabetical listing and UN number listing to be 11L in place of 6L.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 At the recent meeting of the IATA Dangerous Goods Board a member airline raised a concern with respect to the Drill Code assigned to **Biomedical waste, n.o.s., Clinical waste, unspecified, n.o.s. and Medical waste, n.o.s., UN 3291 and Biological substance, Category B, UN 3373** in the *Emergency Response Guidance for Aircraft Incidents involving Dangerous Goods (Doc 9481)*.

1.2 The current, 2009-2010 edition of Doc. 9481 has drill code “6L” assigned to UN 3291 and UN 3373. Table 4-1 Aircraft Emergency Response Drills for Drill Number 6 indicates the inherent risk as “Toxic, may be fatal if inhaled, ingested, or absorbed by skin”. The assignment of drill code 6L creates problems for operators that may restrict the transport of substances in Division 6.1.

1.3 The assignment of Drill Code 6L is also inconsistent with risk posed by these substances, particularly as Drill Number 11 exists, which is assigned to infectious substances in Category A. The

inherent risk indicated for Drill Number 11 is “Infectious substances may affect humans or animals if inhaled, ingested or absorbed through the mucous membrane or an open wound”.

1.4 Infectious substances in Category A are then assigned Drill Letter “Y” which indicates an additional risk described as “depending on the type of infectious substance, the appropriate national authority may be required to quarantine individuals, animals, cargo and the aircraft”. This additional precautionary information is appropriate for pathogens meeting the Category A criteria, however, this would appear to be excessive for UN 3291 and UN 3373 which by definition must not contain Category A pathogens. For this reason it is believed that Drill Letter “L” should be assigned to these two UN numbers.

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