



## **DANGEROUS GOODS PANEL (DGP)**

### **TWENTY-THIRD MEETING**

**Montréal, 11 to 21 October 2011**

#### **Agenda Item 6: Other business**

### **ICAO ENDORSEMENT OF AVIATION SAFETY-RELATED TRAINING AND TESTING ACTIVITIES**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

#### **SUMMARY**

This paper provides information on the development of a new ICAO programme for the endorsement of aviation safety-related training and testing activities. Under the pilot programme for training activities, ICAO will endorse dangerous goods training in which competency frameworks have been developed and that fulfil the criteria of the endorsement programme.

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 ICAO has an important role to play in ensuring that the civil aviation community, and especially States, have access to a pool of qualified professionals necessary to support the safe, secure and sustainable development of air transport.

1.2 Effective, competency-based training is a fundamental component of enhancing the safety of air transport worldwide. As a result, ICAO, in order to support States in their efforts to comply with ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and to improve the job performance of aviation personnel, has adopted the ICAO Civil Aviation Training Policy.

1.3 This policy is applicable to all training provided by ICAO and any organization issuing a certificate of completion or a certificate of achievement with an ICAO logo. All such training and testing activities shall be designed, developed and offered in accordance with set standards and best practices for that discipline and will be subjected to an appropriate ICAO endorsement mechanism.

1.4 Therefore in support of the ICAO Training Policy, ICAO has established an endorsement mechanism to protect the use of the ICAO logo for training and testing<sup>1</sup> activities. Through this

<sup>1</sup> Initially, testing activities will be limited to the endorsement of English Language Testing.

mechanism, approval and validation that the endorsed testing or training activity complies with specific criteria developed by ICAO will be required. In order for an organization to obtain the ICAO logo for use with respect to a training or testing activity, the requesting organization will be required to fulfil the obligations of this endorsement programme.

## 2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Endorsement will be used to extend ICAO's ability to implement key activities derived from strategic objectives involving training and testing. ICAO is committed to developing and implementing an endorsement process that ensures training and testing activities meet best practices for these activities, while being consistent and transparent in the evaluation of those activities. Furthermore, in order for ICAO to sustain this new activity, it will be supported by a cost-recovery system.

2.2 Endorsement can help improve the quality of training offered to aviation professionals by promoting the consistent application of accepted standards. The endorsement process will support the strategic objectives of ICAO by facilitating the harmonization of Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) implementation and ensuring that enough qualified and current aviation professionals manage and support the international air transportation system.

2.3 ICAO endorsement will focus on aviation safety-related training and testing activities that comply with the following guidelines:

- a) uses internationally recognized competency frameworks<sup>2</sup>;
- b) directly relates to the implementation of ICAO SARPs;
- c) is not conducted in an Approved Training Organization per Appendix 2 to Annex I;
- d) follows a competency-based training methodology<sup>3</sup>;
- e) is conducted by an organization in which there is an established quality assurance system;
- f) training facilities are commensurate with the activity; and
- g) is provided by qualified and competent instructors that meet criteria to provide specific training courses.

2.4 ICAO endorsement of a training or testing activity indicates that the delivery of the training or testing activity, the facilities and instruction meet the criteria of quality and experience required to ensure that the skills and knowledge necessary to implement SARPs are provided. Endorsement does not replace approval for training by a national or regional regulatory body

2.5 Implementation of the ICAO endorsement programme will be done in a phased approach. The pilot project regarding testing activities began in September 2011 with the endorsement of English

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<sup>2</sup> Internationally recognized competency frameworks have been developed in collaboration with the aviation community and have been approved through various ICAO international forums.

<sup>3</sup> Such as outlined in *ICAO Doc 9868 – Procedures for Air Navigation Services - Training*

aviation language testing. Endorsement of training activities will begin with a pilot project for dangerous good training and is anticipated to begin in early 2012, once the competency frameworks for shippers, freight forwarders and State employees have been approved.

**3. CONSIDERATION BY THE DGP**

3.1 The DGP is invited to note the work by the ICAO Secretariat regarding the endorsement of aviation safety-related training and testing activities.

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