



DANGEROUS GOODS PANEL (DGP) WORKING GROUP MEETING (DGP-WG/16)

Montreal, 17 to 21 October 2016

Agenda Item 6: Other business

RECTIFICATION OF THE CURRENT ARABIC INTERPRETATION (DANGEROUS CARGO) TO THE TERM “DANGEROUS GOODS”

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SUMMARY

This information paper refers to a working paper submitted to the 39th Session of the ICAO Assembly (Montréal, 27 September to 7 October 2016). The working paper (A39-WP/157) advised that the current Arabic interpretation of the term “dangerous goods” was misleading and invited the Assembly to consider rectifying the wording in all ICAO documents where which refer to the term.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The current definition of the term “dangerous goods” in Arabic is “cargo or materials/items which may pose risk to health or safety or property or the environment as defined in the list of dangerous cargo in the Technical Instructions”.

1.2 This information paper advises that the current Arabic translation of the term “dangerous goods” is interpreted by some native Arabic speakers as “dangerous cargo”. This is in fact a very limited and misleading interpretation and is incorrect, as Annex 18 — *The Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air* and the *Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air* (Doc 9284) have a wider scope which is not limited to only cargo but includes also provisions for dangerous goods carried by passengers and crew, dangerous goods in mail, etc.

1.3 Therefore, and for safer and securer transport of dangerous goods by air through awareness and correct understanding of the dangerous goods provisions, especially in the Middle East, the United Arab Emirates invited the Assembly to consider the need to rectify the current translation of the term “dangerous cargo” in Arabic so that it is interpreted correctly as “dangerous goods”. The term “dangerous goods” appears in Arabic in several ICAO documents, therefore ICAO Member States with Arabic as a mother tongue needed to be consulted. It is in fact confusing and misleading since it is read by

some native Arabic speakers as “dangerous cargo”, where the ICAO provisions in both Annex 18 and the *Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air* (Doc 9284) has a wider scope which is not limited to only cargo but includes also provisions for passengers, crew, and mail, etc. We understand that the translation was derived from the current translation in the dictionary.

2. **A39 RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 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 which refer to the term.

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