



DANGEROUS GOODS PANEL (DGP)

TWENTY-NINTH MEETING

Montréal, 13 to 17 November 2023

Agenda Item 11: Other business

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES' INITIATIVE FOR COMPETENCY VALIDATION (COVAL) FOR DANGEROUS GOODS TRAINING INSTRUCTORS AND DANGEROUS GOODS POST HOLDERS

(Presented by the Secretary)

SUMMARY

This paper contains information presented by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to the 41st Session of the ICAO Assembly (Montréal, 27 September to 7 October 2022). The UAE shared its innovative initiatives to validate competency of dangerous goods training instructors and dangerous goods post holders which are integrated under its dangerous goods oversight responsibilities. The initiative aligns with the scope of ICAO' dangerous goods competency-based training and assessment approach (CBTA), enriches the UAE approach to implementation of dangerous goods CBTA, and improves operational safety in the UAE.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The 41st Session of the ICAO Assembly was convened in Montréal from 27 September to 7 October 2022. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) presented a working paper to the Assembly's Technical Commission (A41-WP/215) that outlined its initiatives on the implementation of Competency Validation (COVAL). COVAL is defined as:

“the UAE integrated approach (as integral part of its dangerous goods oversight responsibilities) to validate the competency of dangerous goods training instructor and dangerous goods post holder, to ensure they are competent in the function(s) they will perform prior to performing such function(s), due to the impactful role they play in maintaining the safe transport of dangerous goods by air”.

1.2 The UAE also delivered a SKYTALK presentation on COVAL during the 41st Session of the Assembly, which is available on ICAO TV.

1.3 The Assembly's Technical Commission acknowledged, with appreciation, the efforts of the United Arab Emirates and agreed to refer the information provided and action proposed by the UAE to the relevant expert group. The UAE invited the Assembly to:

- a) note the contents of the Assembly working paper as it is believed the UAE COVAL initiative will contribute to ICAO's "No Country Left Behind" programme, as the UAE offered to share the COVAL Material with the ICAO Global Aviation Training (GAT) Section once the COVAL material reaches maturity, hence 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 the COVAL initiative; and
- c) request the ICAO DGP to consider incorporating the COVAL approach/concept into the *Supplement to the Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air* (Doc 9284SU) as an example/guidance to States to validate the competency of their dangerous goods training instructors and dangerous goods post holders, as and if applicable.

1.4 The Secretariat acknowledges, with great appreciation, the work undertaken by the UAE to support dangerous goods competency-based training and assessment, its offer to share the material with ICAO and to provide Member States complimentary access to its course as outlined in this information paper and the working paper to the 41st Session of the ICAO Assembly. The course will no doubt have a positive impact on safety.

1.5 An overview of the scope and contents of COVAL is provided in DGP/29-IP/4. A presentation on COVAL will be given by UAE, including feedback from end users, during DGP/29.

2. CONCLUSION

2.1 The DGP/29 is invited to review the contents of this information paper and 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 competency.

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