



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

### **TWENTY-NINTH MEETING**

**Montréal, 13 to 17 November 2023**

#### **Agenda Item 11: Other business**

### **OVERVIEW OF UAE INITIATIVE COMPETENCY VALIDATION (COVAL), FOR DANGEROUS GOODS TRAINING INSTRUCTOR (DGTI) AND DANGEROUS GOODS POST HOLDER (DGPH)**

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#### **SUMMARY**

This paper contains an overview of the United Arab Emirate (UAE) competency validation programme that was presented to the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the ICAO Assembly (Montréal, 27 September to 7 October 2022) and described in DGP/29-IP/3. 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. BACKGROUND**

1.1 The United Arab Emirates (UAE) established a Dangerous Goods Certification Program over 15 years ago, as an integral part of its dangerous goods oversight responsibilities, where some of the main objectives of the said certification programme are to:

- a) ensure that all UAE originating dangerous goods shipments are offered for air transport by a UAE General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) dangerous goods certified entity ONLY;
- b) improve quality of dangerous goods training delivery through the certification of dangerous goods training providers, including training instructors; and

- c) improve operational safety, through the certification of dangerous goods post holders whose essential part of their responsibilities is to ensure that their entity complies with and effectively implements the UAE civil aviation regulations.

The Dangerous Goods Certification applies to air operators carrying dangerous goods, ground handling agents, freight forwarders/cargo agencies, dangerous goods packaging suppliers, designated postal operators, dangerous goods post holders, dangerous goods training providers and dangerous goods training instructors.

1.2 Before January 2023, the UAE was using multiple or different methods to certify dangerous goods training instructors and dangerous goods post holders, such as validation examination for dangerous goods training instructors delivering Category 6 training, face-to-face interviews for dangerous goods training instructors delivering dangerous goods training other than Category 6, face-to-face interviews and assessments for dangerous goods post holders, etc. So, the idea was to replace the multiple or different methods referred to by one integrated approach.

1.3 In addition, competency based training and assessment (CBTA) was found to be a very good opportunity for the UAE not only to be active by aligning with CBTA, but to be proactive by raising the bar to improve the quality and enrich dangerous goods training delivery, hence initiated COVAL as the UAE new integrated/standardized approach to validate the competency of dangerous goods training instructors and dangerous goods post holders by requiring them to undergo the Competency Validation (COVAL) Certification Course as a new mandatory requirement, which was well received and appreciated by the industry stakeholders. Consequently, COVAL has become a national regulatory requirement in the UAE and incorporated into Revision 1.4 of the UAE Civil Aviation Regulations “CARs, Part VI”, dated 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023.

1.4 The point to be noted is that COVAL is not dangerous goods specialized training but a UAE integrated approach/tool to validate the competency of dangerous goods training instructors and dangerous goods post holders for the functions they are responsible for, etc. as explained earlier.

## 2. IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 Considering +200 dangerous goods training instructors and +200 dangerous goods post holders in the UAE, and in order to ensure proper management, effective implementation for COVAL to reach the required maturity, the decision was made for the implementation to take place in two phases.

- a) **Phase I:** Conduct monthly COVAL-Initial Certification Course for dangerous goods training instructors from January to December 2023, where COVAL-Recurrent for dangerous goods training instructors shall take place within 24 months from the month on which they completed the COVAL-Initial course.
- b) **Phase II:** Conduct monthly COVAL-Initial Certification Course for dangerous goods post holders from January to December 2024, where COVAL-Recurrent for dangerous goods post holders shall take place within 24 months from the month on which they completed the COVAL-Initial course.

2.2 The UAE conducted 10 COVAL-Initial Certification Courses for 180 dangerous goods training instructors since January 2023, and yet to deliver 2 more COVAL-Initial courses in November and December 2023.