

DANGEROUS GOODS PANEL

Frankfurt, 16 to 20 September 2002

Agenda Item 2: Development of recommendations for amendments to the Technical Instructions for incorporation in the 2005/2006 edition

DRY SHIPPERS

(Presented by G. A. Leach)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 A recent incident in the United Kingdom has highlighted an area of the Technical Instructions which the Panel may wish to review. During flight, what was thought to be smoke was seen emitting from an overhead locker. An attempt was made to open the locker without success. An in-flight return was considered by the crew, but as the "smoke" was dissipating a decision was made to continue to the intended destination. It was then established that a passenger was carrying a "dry shipper", i.e. an insulated packaging with liquid nitrogen fully absorbed in a porous material which was not subject to the provisions of the Technical Instructions due to the wording in Packing Instruction 202. The locker had frozen shut, but it was not possible to determine whether this was due to the normal venting of gas or spillage due to an overfilled packaging. It is suggested that "dry shippers" have the potential to cause significant difficulties for operators if they are unaware they are being carried and it is suggested that when carried by passengers, they should be subject to operator approval.

2. PROPOSAL 1

2.1 Amend the note at the end of Packing Instruction 202 as follows:

"Note,- Insulated packagings.....are not subject to these Instructions when consigned as cargo provided the design.....of the insulated packaging. For carriage by passengers see Part 8; 1.1.2"

3. PROPOSAL 2

3.1 Add a new r) to Part 8; 1.1.2 as follows:

"with the approval of the operator, insulated packagings containing refrigerated liquid nitrogen fully absorbed in a porous material and intended for transport, at low temperature, of non-dangerous products provided the design of the insulated packaging

would not allow the build-up of pressure within the container and would not permit the release of any refrigerated liquid nitrogen irrespective of the orientation of the insulated packaging."

— END —