



WORKING PAPER

**DANGEROUS GOODS PANEL (DGP)
MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP OF THE WHOLE**

Montréal, 15 to 19 October 2012

Agenda Item 4: Development of recommendations for amendments to the *Emergency Response Guidance for Aircraft Incidents Involving Dangerous Goods* (Doc 9481) for incorporation in the 2015-2016 Edition

EMERGENCY RESPONSE DRILL NUMBER 4, LETTER "W", FIREFIGHTING PROCEDURE

(Presented by D. Mirko)

SUMMARY

This working paper proposes to clarify requirements for fire fighting procedures concerning the actions on drill number 4 with letter "W", for ignitions of lithium and other metals and substances listed with such code, located in Tables 4-1 and 4-2 of the *Emergency Response Guidance for Aircraft Incidents Involving Dangerous Goods* (Doc 9481).

Action by the DGP-WG is in paragraph 2.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Paragraph 1.3 of the *Emergency Response Guidance for Aircraft Incidents Involving Dangerous Goods* (Doc 9481) lists types of extinguishing agents that can be used to extinguish fires on aircraft: halon, dry agent, carbon dioxide and water.

1.2 Table 4-1 provides fire fighting procedures for groups of spontaneously combustible or pyrophoric substances when exposed to air substances and metals. This group includes alkali metals (e.g. UN 1415, **Lithium**), which are assigned drill code 4W. Table 4-1 prohibits the use of water on alkali metals assigned drill code 4W, and recommends the use of all fire extinguishing agents including halogenated hydrocarbons (halon) and carbon dioxide.

1.3 Use of halon and carbon dioxide does not stop the fire of lithium and other metals and substances, burning without air, listed in Table 4-2 and having a drill number 4 and letter W in its drill code and shouldn't be recommended for such situations.

2. **ACTION BY THE DGP-WG**

2.1 The DGP-WG is invited to revise the fire fighting procedure for drill number 4, letter “W”, as presented in the appendix to this working paper.

APPENDIX

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE GUIDANCE

Table 4-1. Aircraft Emergency Response Drills						
1. COMPLETE APPROPRIATE AIRCRAFT EMERGENCY PROCEDURES. 2. CONSIDER LANDING AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE. 3. USE DRILL FROM THE CHART BELOW.						
DRILL NO.	INHERENT RISK	RISK TO AIRCRAFT	RISK TO OCCUPANTS	SPILL OR LEAK PROCEDURE	FIREFIGHTING PROCEDURE	ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS
...						
4	Spontaneously combustible or pyrophoric when exposed to air	Fire and/or explosion	Smoke, fumes and heat, and as indicated by the drill letter(s)	Use 100% oxygen; establish and maintain maximum ventilation	All agents according to availability; On "W" drill letter — no water, on "W" drill letter use dry agent	Possible abrupt loss of pressurization; minimum electrics if "F" or "H" drill letter
...						
DRILL LETTER	ADDITIONAL RISK		DRILL LETTER	ADDITIONAL RISK		
A	ANAESTHETIC		N	NOXIOUS		
C	CORROSIVE		P	TOXIC* (POISON)		
E	EXPLOSIVE		S	SPONTANEOUSLY COMBUSTIBLE OR PYROPHORIC		
F	FLAMMABLE		W	IF WET GIVES OFF POISONOUS OR FLAMMABLE GAS		
H	HIGHLY IGNITABLE		X	OXIDIZER		
i	IRRITANT / TEAR PRODUCING		Y	DEPENDING ON THE TYPE OF INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCE, THE APPROPRIATE NATIONAL AUTHORITY MAY BE REQUIRED TO QUARANTINE INDIVIDUALS, ANIMALS, CARGO AND THE AIRCRAFT		
L	OTHER RISK LOW OR NONE					
M	MAGNETIC					
* Toxic has the same meaning as poison.						