

Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

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Global harmonization of transport of dangerous goods regulations with the Model Regulations

Classification of infected animals

Transmitted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

Introduction

1. The twenty-fifth meeting of the Dangerous Goods Panel (DGP/25) was held in Montréal from 19 to 30 October 2015. The panel made a final review of amendments proposed to the Technical Instructions in order to harmonize with the 19th revised edition of the UN Model Regulations and to address issues specific to air transport. The full report of DGP/25 including all amendments agreed can be downloaded from <http://www.icao.int/safety/DangerousGoods/Pages/DGP25.aspx>.

2. This information paper highlights issues raised in relation to classification criteria for infected animals which the DGP/25 determined needed to be considered by the Sub-Committee.

Background

3. Discussions on inconsistencies with respect to the provisions for infected live animals between the Technical Instructions and its Supplement and a lack of harmonization with the Model Regulations led to more substantial amendments which the panel recommends need consideration by the Sub-Committee. Input from the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) was sought in relation to the inconsistencies, and a representative of WHO was present at DGP/25. Collaboration between the WHO representative and email consultation with representatives from FAO and OIE led to a recommendation to amend the classification criteria for infected animal material (2.6.3.6.2 of the Model Regulations), particularly with respect to the use of the words “infected” and “affected”. The amendment agreed by the panel is as follows (Technical Instructions, Part 2;6.3.6.2):

Animal material ~~from animals intentionally infected for the purpose of propagating pathogens-affected by pathogens~~ of Category A or which would be assigned to Category A in cultures only, must be assigned to UN 2814 or UN 2900 as appropriate. Animal material ~~affected~~ infected by pathogens of Category B other than those which would be assigned to Category A if they were in cultures must be assigned to UN 3373.

4. An amendment to the Technical Instructions specifying which appropriate national authorities an approval to transport intentionally infected live animals known to contain an

infectious substance by air was required from was also recommended, i.e. the States of Origin, Transit, Destination and the Operator.

5. The following guidance for appropriate authorities when considering whether to grant an approval was also proposed for inclusion in the Supplement to the Technical Instructions:

2.1. The use of live animals must only be considered for the transport of an infectious substance when the substance cannot be shipped by any other means. Infected animals may only be transported under the terms and conditions of an approval granted by the appropriate authorities of the States of Origin, Transit, Destination and Operator. Such authorities must include at a minimum public health, veterinary, and/or other appropriate authorities when applicable.

2.2. A risk based approach, dependent on whether the infectious substance is classified as Category A or Category B and on whether it is assigned to UN 2814, UN 2900 or UN 3373 , must be used when considering a request for such an approval,

2.3. Such intentionally infected animals must be shipped in germ-tight packaging at least as secure as that used in the air transport of germ-free animals. These consignments must be declared and marked as “Infected live animals” and marked and labelled in accordance with Part 4;8, Part 5;2 and Part 5;3 as applicable.

2.4. When an empty receptacle is to be returned to the shipper it must be properly disinfected/sterilized before shipment. Moreover, all marks and labels required in accordance with 2.3 must be removed, obliterated or otherwise made no longer visible. (See also Part S-6;6)

Note: Guidance on the international standards for export / import of live animals is given in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (<http://www.oie.int/en/international-standard-setting/terrestrial-code/access-online/>) and the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code (<http://www.oie.int/en/international-standard-setting/aquatic-code/access-online/>).

Conclusion

6. An extract from the DGP/25 Report on the subject is provided as an annex to this information paper.

7. The Sub-Committee is invited to consider whether corresponding amendments to the UN Model Regulations are necessary. The issue will be raised formally at the next session of the Sub-Committee if deemed necessary.

Annex

Extract from the DGP/25 Report

3.3 Infected Live Animals (DGP/25-WP/45)

3.3.1 Inconsistencies with respect to the provisions for the transport of infected live animals between the Technical Instructions and the Supplement were raised at DGP-WG/15 whereby the former permitted their transport under the terms and conditions of an approval granted by the appropriate national authority while the Supplement referred to an exemption being granted by all States concerned.

3.3.2 Guidance from the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) was sought in order to determine how to ensure consistency between the two documents. This resulted in proposed amendments to Part 2; 6.3.6 of the Technical Instructions and Part S-1;2 of the Supplement (Limitation of Dangerous Goods on Aircraft — infected live animals).

3.3.3 The Technical Instructions were revised to require approvals from the States of Origin, Transit, Destination and Operator in accordance with revised provisions in the Supplement. In coordination with FAO, OIE and WHO, the panel agreed to add a provision in the Supplement for the appropriate authorities to include, at a minimum, public health, veterinary and/or other appropriate authorities when applicable and for authorities to apply a risk-based approach dependent on which category the infectious substance was classified and which UN number was assigned when considering requests for approval. Amendments to the supplement also included clarification on documentation, marking and labelling requirements and a reference to guidance material on the international standards for export and import of live animals.

3.3.4 An amendment to the Technical Instructions to clearly distinguish between infected live animals and infected animal material was also agreed.

3.3.5 During the review of the provisions, a misalignment with the UN Model Regulations was discovered in relation to the classification of animal material whereby provisions for animal material affected by pathogens of Category B were omitted from the Technical Instructions. The provisions were added to the Technical Instructions. It was also suggested that use of *affected* should be replaced with *infected* and that provisions in both documents related to animal material *affected* by pathogens of Category A needed to be amended to indicate that *affected* animal material means animal material from animals intentionally *infected* for the purpose of propagating pathogens. Amendments to these provisions were developed in collaboration with the WHO representative and email consultation with representatives from FAO and OIE. The Secretary would inform the UN Sub-Committee of the changes and the justification for introducing them.
