

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

25 June 2014

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Forty-fifth session

Geneva, 23 June – 2 July 2014

Item 5 (d) of the provisional agenda

Electric storage systems: miscellaneous

Prohibition on the transport of lithium metal batteries as cargo on passenger aircraft

Transmitted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

Introduction

1. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Council approved an amendment to the *Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air* (Doc 9284) forbidding the transport of lithium metal batteries as cargo on passenger aircraft. The ICAO Council also approved provisions which would allow for the transport of small lithium metal cells on a passenger aircraft in cases where no other form of transport is available with the prior approval of the State of Origin and the State of Operator, subject to the development by the DGP of performance standards and conditions for States to use when considering whether or not to grant an approval. It is expected that these will be finalized in time for Council consideration during their Fall Session and, subject to approval, incorporated in the 2015-2016 Edition of the Supplement to the Technical Instructions (Doc 9284SU).

Background

2. The amendment was considered at the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the Dangerous Goods Panel (DGP/24) (Montréal, 28 October to 8 November 2013) and at the Second Meeting of the DGP Lithium Battery Working Group (DGP-WG/LB/2) (Montréal, 7 to 11 April 2014). The decision to recommend a prohibition was based on test results from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) William J. Hughes Technical Centre which demonstrate that current fire suppression systems in passenger cargo holds cannot adequately suppress a lithium metal battery fire.

3. Reports of the DGP's discussions on the proposal to forbid the transport of lithium metal batteries from transport can be downloaded from:

- a) DGP/24 Report (Agenda Item 5, pages 5-1 to 5-5) and Addendum/Corrigendum No. 1 to the DGP/24 Report:

<http://www.icao.int/safety/DangerousGoods/Pages/DGP24-Report.aspx>

- b) DGP-WG/LB/2 Report:

<http://www.icao.int/safety/DangerousGoods/Pages/Working-Group-on-Lithium-Batteries-2014.aspx>
