



香港特別行政區政府
民航處

Civil Aviation Department
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Dangerous Goods Advisory Circular DGAC 4/2017

Prevention of Undeclared Dangerous Goods in Air Cargo

Recently, an air cargo consignment consisting of ‘co-load’ cargo prepared for export from Hong Kong was suspected to have contained dangerous goods that had not been properly classified, packed, marked, labelled and declared in accordance with the ICAO Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air. The Dangerous Goods Office hereby reiterates the importance of safe transport of dangerous goods by air which in essence, is a shared responsibility of the air cargo industry.

Precautionary Measures

It should be noted that cargo declared under a general description may contain hazardous articles or dangerous goods that are not apparent. **Cargo acceptance personnel must stay vigilant and exercise caution during the acceptance process.** In this connection, the Dangerous Goods Office urges the cargo operation and acceptance personnel of **airlines, handling agents and freight forwarders** to seek clarification from the shippers and conduct appropriate check on shipments under the following circumstances :

- (i) when the descriptions of the contents of the shipments are unclear;
- (ii) when dangerous goods are suspected to be contained therein;
- (iii) when the shippers are new to your company;
- (iv) when your company has no direct contact with the shippers and only deals with them through one or more intermediate entities, including local and/or non-local entities;
- (v) when the shipments are consolidated and/or co-loaded by one or more intermediate entities.

In addition, individual airlines may implement additional measures as they think fit and appropriate to prevent undeclared dangerous goods from being carried on board their aircraft in accordance with their flight safety considerations and company's operations and risk assessment procedures.

In case undeclared dangerous goods is found, the consignment must not be accepted and records showing rejection of such consignment must be preserved for a minimum of 6 months for inspection.

Contravention of Dangerous Goods (Consignment by Air) (Safety) Regulations

The consignment of undeclared dangerous goods constitutes a contravention of the Dangerous Goods (Consignment by Air) (Safety) Regulations (Cap. 384A of the Laws of Hong Kong), and the shipper and/or freight forwarder involved are liable for prosecution. On conviction, the shipper and/or the freight forwarder may be subject to a fine of \$250,000 and imprisonment for 2 years.

Should there be any query regarding this circular, please contact the Dangerous Goods Office at 2910 6856 or 2910 6857.

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An electronic version of this circular can be downloaded at
<http://www.cad.gov.hk/english/DGAC.html>