



Update on the Implementation of Competency-Based Dangerous Goods Training

Introduction

Over the last several years the ICAO Dangerous Goods Panel (DGP) Training Working Group has been engaged in the development of provisions to implement competency-based training into the *Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air* (Technical Instructions). The development of competency-based training for dangerous goods is based on the principles for competency-based training that are set out in the ICAO Procedures for Air Navigation Services—Training (PANS-TRG, Doc 9868).

The work of the DGP TWG resulted in draft changes to the training provisions in Part 1;4 being published in the 2017-2018 edition of the ICAO Technical Instructions and to Subsection 1.5 in the 58th and 59th edition of the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations (DGR) in Appendix H. Also included in Appendix H in the DGR was guidance material to support the development and implementation of dangerous goods training under a competency-based training approach together with a link to a survey on the ICAO website for States and industry to provide comments on the draft proposals. The purpose of seeking comments was to determine the level of support from States and industry on implementation of competency-based training and to determine if there was a need to amend what was being proposed.

The DGP TWG considered the responses provided by States and industry to the survey and based on the responses provided determined that there was strong support for competency-based training, but that States, and industry wanted more guidance on the implementation of competency-based training for dangerous goods. Based on that feedback, the DGP TWG reviewed and revised the proposed changes to the training provisions and updated the guidance material to include training frameworks for well-defined categories of personnel.

At the 26th meeting of the ICAO Dangerous Goods Panel in October 2018 (DGP/26) the DGP TWG submitted a proposal for the changes to Part 1;4 to incorporate competency-based training be adopted into the 2019-2020 edition of the Technical Instructions with a 2-year transition period. This proposal was agreed by the DGP and provided to the ICAO Air Navigation Commission (ANC) for their endorsement.

However, while the ANC supported the changes proposed to Part 1;4 to implement competency-based training the ANC did not endorse adoption into the 2019-2020 edition of the Technical Instructions because of concerns on proposed changes to Annex 18 that impact on dangerous goods training.

Next Steps

At this stage the changes to Part 1;4 in the Technical Instructions and Subsection 1.5 in the DGR to introduce competency-based training are on hold but should be adopted at DGP/27 in October 2019 for implementation into the 2021-2022 edition of the Technical Instructions (62nd edition of the DGR).

However, given that there has been significant discussion on what framework or guidance will be available to employers, training developers and providers and regulatory authorities on evaluation of the content of dangerous goods courses and assessments, the two-year delay should be seen as an opportunity to engage with regulators, training providers and industry to identify what guidance material should be provided and what level of detail should be included in his guidance.

The move to competency-based training should be seen as an opportunity to improve the skills of those persons provided with dangerous goods training to better focus on the actual job being performed. The objective should be to ensure that the training course provides the student with the level of knowledge and skill to perform the dangerous goods related functions for their job at the required level. The assessment at the conclusion of the training should then be such that the knowledge and skill can be measured to validate that the student is at the required skill level.