



Dangerous Goods Training FAQ

Do I need training to ship dangerous goods (hazmat)?

Yes, all persons involved in the preparation and shipping of dangerous goods must have appropriate training. The amount of training required depends on the tasks undertaken. An indication of the training requirements is set out in subsection 1.5 of the IATA [Dangerous Goods Regulations](#) (DGR).

What must the training cover?

- Familiarization: provide an awareness of the general provisions of the Regulations, including the criteria of the hazard classes and the identification of dangerous goods presented as general cargo;
- Specific training: provide detailed training in the requirements applicable to the function for which the student is responsible;
- Safety training: cover the hazards presented by dangerous goods and safe handling and emergency procedures.

Who must have dangerous goods training?

The legal requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organization's Technical Instructions for the safe transport of dangerous goods by air requires that initial and recurrent in-depth training must be taken by shippers and their agents, packers, freight forwarders, cargo agents, operators (or airlines), agencies handling operators and performing the cargo acceptance function.

Awareness level training is required for staff of operators and agencies acting on behalf of operators performing the functions of ground handling, storage and loading of cargo and baggage; passenger handling and security staff responsible for screening passengers and their baggage; flight crewmembers and flight attendants.

How often must this training take place?

The ICAO Technical Instructions require that recurrent training must take place within 24 months of previous training to ensure that the knowledge is current, unless a competent authority has defined a shorter period. For example, the United States requires operator staff to have recurrent training every year and The Netherlands requires recurrent training every 18 months.



Where can I find the right training?

Many Civil Aviation Authorities (CAA) require dangerous goods training schools to be approved by the CAA. Approved schools are then listed on the CAA website. In addition, IATA has a accreditation scheme for dangerous goods training schools and authorized training centers. Check the [IATA-endorsed schools](#).

IATA also offers [on-site training](#) for larger groups of students.

Other commercial dangerous goods training schools may be found in the Yellow pages.

What is an IATA Accredited Training School?

IATA's accredited training school program is scheme whereby training schools submit their course material to IATA for review. A team of airline training experts review the material and determine whether the course meets the minimum standards necessary to become an IATA Accredited School. This establishes a minimum worldwide standard for dangerous goods training. Note however, that some countries have higher standards for training and may require training schools to be approved by the national government. There is no requirement that training be obtained from an Accredited School, however, such a school can be expected to deliver good quality training.

Can I attend dangerous goods training online?

Online or computer based training may be appropriate for awareness training or for shipper training dealing with limited types of products, e.g. infectious substances. However, for more detailed courses covering dangerous goods acceptance or shipper training for multiple classes of dangerous goods, classroom training is recommended as classroom training with an instructor allows for topics to be addressed in more detail

I need to send a shipment of dangerous goods by air but I do not have the training (yet). What can I do?

You can outsource the task to a qualified service partner until you comply with the training requirements as per subsection 1.5 of the IATA DGR.

I only ship infectious substances in Category B and/or Exempt Human/Animal Specimen, do I need training?

There is no legal requirement for persons shipping these substances to have training. However, in order to ensure a proper understanding of the dangerous goods regulations dangerous goods training is recommended that at least covers general awareness and packing / classification of these specimens.



I am trained myself. Can I provide dangerous goods training to my employees / colleagues?

That depends on the local CAA regulations. Many countries require that both dangerous goods courses and instructors have formal CAA approval. In addition the IATA DGR requires that instructors of dangerous goods courses “have adequate instructional skills and must have successfully completed a DG training program”.

My training expired last month but I will attend training next week. Can I prepare DG Shipments in the meantime?

No, you have to attend recurrent training first.