

SAFETY INFORMATION 16/2024

16th December 2024



AWARENESS FOR FLIGHT CREW ON HANDLING DANGEROUS GOODS INCIDENTS ONBOARD

1 Background

- 1.1 To ensure that flight crews are fully prepared to handle incidents involving hazardous materials or dangerous goods in-flight, it is essential that they are well-versed in the established procedures for managing in-flight dangerous goods (DG) incidents.
- 1.2 The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Doc 9481 – Emergency Response Guidance for Aircraft Incidents Involving Dangerous Goods, provides detailed guidance on emergency response specifically for DG incidents on the aircraft, emphasising crew coordination, adherence to emergency protocols, and the effective use of emergency equipment. This Safety Information serves as an important reminder of these practices and highlights the necessity of strict compliance to ensure the safety of the aircraft, crew members and its passengers.

2 Guidelines for Flight Crew Handling Dangerous Goods Incidents

- 2.1 Familiarise with ICAO Doc 9481
 - a) Ensure a thorough understanding of the emergency response guidance, including checklist protocols for managing various dangerous goods incidents. Familiarity with ICAO Doc 9481 enables quick and accurate decision-making during emergencies.
- 2.2 Dangerous Goods *Notification to Pilot-in-Command* (NOTOC)
 - a) Review the DG *Notification to Pilot-in-Command* (NOTOC) prior to each flight, identifying the types and quantities of dangerous goods on board, UN numbers, and specific risks associated with these items.

2.4 Emergency Response Checklist Use

- a) Use the DG incident checklist in ICAO Doc 9481. These include:
 - 1) Fire or smoke involving DG in cargo or passenger areas.
 - 2) Spillage or leakage response.
 - 3) Lithium battery incidents in electronic devices.
 - 4) General in-flight smoke and fire protocols.

2.5 Communication and Coordination with Cabin Crew

Maintain close coordination with cabin crew during any DG-related incident. Clear and continuous communication is essential to ensure effective handling and mitigate risks to passengers and crew.

2.6 Emergency Equipment Familiarity

Ensure that all flight crew are trained and familiar with the emergency equipment, including fire extinguishers, oxygen equipment, and protective gear specific to DG incidents. Regularly review procedures on safe equipment use during a DG emergency.

2.7 Immediate Response Protocols

- a) Initiate appropriate emergency procedures for DG incidents, including smoke removal and fire extinguishing.
- b) Avoid the usage of non -essential electronics during an incident, and consider a landing as soon as feasible if the situation worsens.

3 Responsibilities and Compliance

- 3.1 Flight crews are required to adhere to ICAO Doc 9284 – Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air, as well as all related guidelines specified in the airline’s operations manual and ICAO Doc 9481 – Emergency Response Guidance for Aircraft Incidents Involving Dangerous Goods. Failure to comply with these procedures may jeopardise the safety of the aircraft, crew members and passengers.

4 Additional Resources

- 4.1 In addition to the required dangerous goods training outlined in Chapter 5 of the Civil Aviation Directive 18 – National Transport of Dangerous Goods Programme (NTDGP), this Safety Information provides flight crews with essential guidance specific to their responsibilities in managing dangerous goods incidents on board, ensuring compliance with ICAO standards and promoting a safe aviation environment.
- 4.2 As a refresher, CAAM advises all airline flight crew to access the following Q&A through the link provided below.

<https://forms.gle/iLcpPvxUSPWbHqLa8>



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