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 3/2017

Classification of Chemical Substances

Recently, a cargo fire occurred at an air cargo terminal in Hong Kong involving a shipment which contained co-load items including electronic products and chemical substances. During the review of the subject Air Waybill and associated documents, the classification of a consignment of chemical substances which were presented as general air cargo for export from the Hong Kong International Airport was doubtful. In this consignment, a guarantee letter and a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) were provided stating that the chemical substances are not classified as dangerous goods.

It should be noted that the names of some chemical substances may not appear in the **ICAO Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air (TI)** or the **IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations (DGR)**. Depending on the actual composition and properties of the chemical substances, varied information may be found on the internet and chemical databases regarding the classification of the substances as "dangerous goods" or "non-dangerous goods".

Exercise Extra Vigilance

The Dangerous Goods Office strongly urges cargo acceptance personnel to exercise extra vigilance and verify the guarantee letter and the content of each item of the MSDS during the acceptance of chemical product consignments, and seek confirmation from the shippers and/or other experts (e.g. the manufacturers and suppliers) in case of doubt. Chemical substances must not be accepted for air transport unless your company has checked and is convinced that the information submitted by the shipper is correct. Airlines, issuing carriers' agents, cargo handling agents and freight forwarders are also reminded to exercise vigilance when offering reservations to shippers exporting chemical substances, particularly if the shippers are

…/2

new to your company, or if your company has no direct contact with the shippers and only deals with them through one or more intermediate parties.

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