

Changes to the International Civil Aviation Organization's Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air in respect of the "Air Eligibility Marking".

Background

As of 1 January 2003, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) introduced the "air eligibility marking". Application of this marking is optional until 1 January 2004, when this provision was to become a mandatory requirement.

The marking was initially developed to highlight the packing requirements in air transport which are additional to those of the other modes of transport eg pressure differential tests, absorbent material. It was intended that by applying the marking the shipper confirmed he was aware of all the additional air transport requirements and the packaging was fully in compliance with those requirements.

Practical issues

During 2003, a number of practical issues concerning the marking were noted, for example:

- packagings were manufactured with preprinted air eligibility markings, thereby defeating the intent of the provision. This could also mislead a shipper into believing a packaging complied with all air transport requirements irrespective of what inner packagings were placed within;
- it was believed that a lack of understanding of the mark by enforcement agencies of other modes of transport may lead to delayed or stopped consignments of dangerous goods.

Intermediate amendment of the ICAO Technical Instructions

In view of the practical issues which have come to light during 2003, ICAO has reviewed the initial decision to mandate the application of the air eligibility marking and has produced an addendum to the Technical Instructions which is effective from 1 January 2004. In summary:

From 1 January 2004, application of the air eligibility marking will continue to be optional. However, if the marking is applied it must meet the provisions of Part 5; 2.4.12 of the Technical Instructions.

From 1 January 2005, all references to the air eligibility marking will be removed from the Technical Instructions and a new requirement for an additional certification on the Dangerous Goods Transport Document (Shipper's Declaration) will be introduced.

The complete addendum is attached.