



SAFETY ALERT 2021-01

Issue 01

Date of Issue: January 05, 2021

SUBJECT:

TRANSPORTATION OF VACCINES USING DRY ICE

REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS:

See appendix 1

REASON:

Following the development of several vaccines and their submission for the final approval from the worldwide health authorities, a large quantity of the COVID-19 vaccines is planned to be distributed.

Some vaccines may need to be maintained at sub-zero temperatures during transport, and some may even require a temperature-controlled environment of below -70°C. The cooling can reliably be ensured by the use of dry ice (Carbon Dioxide Solid) which is classified as dangerous goods for air transport.

This safety alert is issued to remind Air Operators about the obligation of assessing risks associated with the transport of the Vaccines cooled with dry ice.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Air operators are recommended to:

- a) Identify the hazards and assess the risks associated with the transportation of increased quantities of dry ice: The risk assessment should ensure that all relevant technical and operational aspects have been taken into account¹.
 - i) Technical: characteristics of the dry ice, aircraft configuration, interaction with other cargo etc.; and
 - ii) Operational: training, impact of departure delays, ground handling considerations, etc.).
- b) coordinate with aerodrome, and ground handling operators to ensure safe loading and unloading of the vaccine shipments when dry ice is used as a refrigerant;
- c) be authorized by their State of the Operator prior to conducting such operations with increased quantity of dry ice.

CONTACT:

UAE air operators: Flight Operations: Organization's Principal Inspector

Foreign air operators: foa@gcaa.gov.ae

¹ For more details, refer to appendix 1 and consult aircraft manufacturers.



Appendix 1: list of references

- [IATA Guidance for Vaccine and Pharmaceutical Logistics & Distribution 2nd release](#)
- ICAO Annex 6, Part I, Chapter 14
- ICAO Annex 18 and ICAO Doc 9284;
- [Transportation of COVID-19 Vaccines Requiring Large Quantities of Dry Ice: FAA Guidelines in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [Transportation of vaccines using Dry Ice: EASA Guidelines in relation to the COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Transport Considerations for Airport Operators](#)
- SAFETY ALERT 2020-12 - MANAGING RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH CARGO OPERATIONS
- [GCAA BADG 04 - Formation of the GCAA Care for Covid Vaccine -Task Force \(CFCV Task Force\) under the banner of GCAA Hand-in-Hand initiative.](#)