

Discussion Paper #1

Developing a framework for a modern TDG Training Regime

Governments and industry have long recognized that the safe transport of dangerous goods depends on well trained people who are aware of the risks that these goods pose and their potential for causing accidents.

Part 6 of the TDG Regulations requires that a person who handles, offers for transport, transports, or imports dangerous goods be adequately trained and hold a training certificate. The only exception to this rule is if that person performs those activities in the presence and under the direct supervision of a person who is adequately trained and who holds a training certificate.

There exists ambiguity around what it means for someone to be considered “adequately trained”. Persons are deemed to be adequately trained if they have a sound knowledge of topics that relate directly to their duties and to the dangerous goods handled, offered for transport, transported, or imported. Employers issue a training certificate to an employee when they believe that the employee is adequately trained. Currently, all a training certificate demonstrates is that the employee has received training – it does not evaluate the level of knowledge or skill of the employee.

Transport Canada (TC) does not specify a curriculum, training standard or competency framework, which makes it difficult to measure the success of the training. TC recognizes that there is a need for more stringent training requirements to ensure that all dangerous goods training certificate holders are competent to do their job safely. TC understands that any training regime must be flexible based on the industry and the job functions performed.

TC is considering various options to ensure that all persons involved in the handling, offering for transport, transporting, or importing of dangerous goods are “adequately trained”. These options include: competency-based training and assessment; standardized curriculum and standardized tests; certification of individuals and accreditation of training institutions; as well as other options. Note that, not all options will be implemented and that the final proposed amendments to the regulations may be some combination of options that would deliver on the goals of increasing clarity, compliance, and public safety.