IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations for Operational Staff Training Course



19 - 23 Oct 2026

Cape town

4600 € (Per Person)

Ref: #AVI4896_268270

Course Introduction / Overview:

The safe transport of dangerous goods by air is a critical component of global aviation safety, governed by the comprehensive standards set forth by the International Air Transport Association (IATA). This course provides an in-depth, practical understanding of the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations (DGR), ensuring that operational staff can confidently and competently handle hazardous materials. The curriculum is designed to move beyond simple rule memorization, focusing instead on the philosophy and practical application of the regulations. We will explore the framework that underpins air cargo safety, referencing key principles from the authoritative IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations (DGR) manual. The course also touches upon systemic safety concepts, such as those discussed by safety science expert James Reason, illustrating how each regulatory step acts as a critical layer of defense in preventing incidents. At BIG BEN Training Center, we are committed to fostering a deep-seated culture of safety, empowering participants to not only comply with regulations but to understand the vital role they play in protecting people, property, and the environment. This training is essential for anyone involved in the air transport supply chain, providing the necessary skills for IATA DGR compliance and operational excellence in handling special cargo.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Airline cargo acceptance and handling staff.
- Freight forwarder personnel involved in processing dangerous goods.
- Shippers, packers, and consolidators of hazardous materials.
- Ground handling agents and their supervisors.
- Loadmasters, load planners, and flight operations officers.
- Cabin crew and flight crew members requiring awareness training.
- Regulatory compliance and safety management personnel.
- Warehouse and logistics staff handling air freight.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Commercial and Cargo Airlines.
- Freight Forwarding and Logistics.
- Chemical and Petrochemical Manufacturing.
- Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Industries.
- Oil and Gas Exploration and Production.
- Automotive and Electronics Manufacturing.
- Governmental bodies, including civil aviation authorities and defense agencies.
- Third-Party Logistics (3PL) Providers.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Cargo Operations and Freight Management.
- Logistics and Supply Chain.
- Warehouse and Distribution Centers.
- Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE).
- Regulatory Compliance and Quality Assurance.
- Flight Operations and Ground Services.
- Procurement and Shipping.
- Technical and Engineering Support.

Course Offerings:

By the end of this course, the participants will have able to:

- Correctly interpret and apply the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations manual.
- Identify the nine classes of dangerous goods and their associated hazards.
- Select appropriate packaging and apply packing instructions accurately.
- Properly mark and label packages containing dangerous goods.
- Complete the Shipper's Declaration for Dangerous Goods and other required documentation.
- Understand the procedures for accepting, handling, and loading hazardous materials.
- Implement segregation requirements for incompatible dangerous goods.
- Recognize and respond to undeclared or hidden dangerous goods.
- Apply emergency procedures in the event of a dangerous goods incident.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be highly interactive and participant-centered, ensuring a robust and practical learning experience. We move beyond traditional lectures by integrating a dynamic blend of training techniques. The course heavily relies on real-world case studies of dangerous goods incidents, allowing participants to analyze root causes and understand the practical consequences of non-compliance. Interactive group discussions and workshops encourage peer-to-peer learning and the sharing of diverse operational experiences. A significant portion of the training is dedicated to hands-on exercises, such as classifying sample products, completing a Shipper's Declaration for Dangerous Goods, and conducting acceptance checks using a detailed checklist. These practical activities reinforce theoretical knowledge and build confidence in applying the regulations in a live operational environment. Our expert instructors facilitate these sessions, providing continuous feedback and guidance to ensure that every participant masters the critical skills required for the safe transport of dangerous goods by air. The focus is on building competence and a proactive safety mindset that extends far beyond the classroom.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One Foundations of Dangerous Goods Air Transport

- Introduction to the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations (DGR).
- Understanding the philosophy and principles behind the regulations.
- Applicability of the regulations, including operator and state variations.
- Roles and responsibilities of shippers, packers, and operators.
- Training requirements for personnel involved in dangerous goods handling.
- Recognizing and identifying hidden or undeclared dangerous goods.
- Overview of security provisions for high-consequence dangerous goods.

Unit Two Classification and Identification

- Detailed review of the nine classes of dangerous goods.
- Understanding divisions, packing groups, and their significance.
- Using the List of Dangerous Goods (the Blue Pages) to identify requirements.
- Proper Shipping Names (PSN) and UN/ID numbers.
- Precedence of hazards for substances with multiple risks.
- Classification of mixtures and solutions.
- Special provisions and their impact on shipping requirements.

Unit Three Packaging, Marking, and Labeling

- General packing requirements and principles of safe containment.
- Interpreting and applying IATA packing instructions.
- Understanding quantity limitations for passenger and cargo aircraft.
- Specifications for UN performance-tested packaging.
- Correct application of hazard and handling labels.
- Package marking requirements, including PSN, UN number, and consignee details.
- Requirements for overpacks and their proper marking and labeling.

Unit Four Documentation and Shipper Responsibilities

- The role and legal significance of the Shipper's Declaration for Dangerous Goods.
- Step-by-step process for accurately completing the declaration form.
- Requirements for the Air Waybill and other transport documents.
- Use of the IATA Dangerous Goods Checklist for acceptance.
- Shipper's responsibilities for providing correct information.
- Procedures for amending or correcting documentation.
- Record-keeping requirements for dangerous goods shipments.

Unit Five Handling, Loading, and Emergency Response

- Operator's responsibilities in the transport chain.
- Procedures for cargo acceptance and inspection.
- Requirements for storage and loading of dangerous goods.
- Segregation of incompatible substances on an aircraft.
- Provision of information to the Pilot-in-Command (NOTOC).
- Emergency procedures for incidents involving dangerous goods in-flight and on the ground.
- Reporting requirements for dangerous goods accidents and incidents.

FAQ:

Qualifications required for registering to this course?

There are no requirements.

How long is each daily session, and what is the total number of training hours for the course?

This training course spans five days, with daily sessions ranging between 4 to 5 hours, including breaks and interactive activities, bringing the total duration to 20 - 25 training hours.

Something to think about:

Considering the increasing complexity of global supply chains and the rise of e-commerce, how might future editions of the IATA DGR need to evolve to address the challenge of undeclared or mis-declared lithium batteries in air cargo?

What unique qualities does this course offer compared to other courses?

This course distinguishes itself by focusing on the operational reality of dangerous goods handling rather than on rote memorization of regulations. While other programs may cover the "what," our curriculum emphasizes the "why" and "how," building a deep, intuitive understanding of the safety principles that underpin the IATA DGR. We utilize a scenario-based learning model where participants work through complex, real-world shipping challenges, from classifying a new chemical product to managing a documentation error at the point of acceptance. This practical application ensures that knowledge is not just acquired but is retained and can be confidently applied under pressure in a busy operational environment. Furthermore, the course content is continuously updated to reflect the latest regulatory amendments and industry best practices, with a special focus on emerging challenges like the transport of lithium batteries and new biotechnologies. Our approach is geared towards cultivating a robust safety culture, empowering staff to become proactive safety advocates within their organizations, capable of critical thinking and sound decision-making that goes beyond simply following a checklist.