

Transport of Dangerous Goods by Post

Background

The possibility for postal operators to introduce limited types and quantities of dangerous goods to the international postal system has been present for several years. The Universal Postal Union (UPU) and postal operators have produced posters and videos to educate customers regarding the dangers of shipping Dangerous Goods in the mail.

However, the transport of Dangerous Goods by post still presents many challenges. In some countries, due to mail secrecy laws, postal operators are not allowed to ask questions about the contents or packaging of the shipped parcel, and airlines are not allowed to inspect packages carried on board. Moreover, the current trend is to outsource postal functions to third parties such as supermarkets, and some countries have almost completely eliminated post office outlets. This raises some concerns as to the Dangerous Goods training and knowledge of the staff accepting mail that enter air transport.

IFALPA Position

IFALPA believes that the transport of Dangerous Goods by post is not acceptable unless postal operators are subject to the same ICAO Standards that apply to other shippers.