

UK CAA issues warning about the carriage of liquefied flammable gas

The Dangerous Goods Office of the UK Civil Aviation Authority has issued the following alert:

The CAA is investigating an incident involving a cylinder containing a liquefied flammable gas, which exploded in a warehouse following carriage on a cargo aircraft. One person was injured. The investigation is currently exploring the possibility that a reaction occurred between the contents, ethyl chloride, and the material of the cylinder, aluminium alloy.

Packing Instruction 200 of the International Civil Aviation Organisation's Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air specifically states that "aluminium alloy cylinders are not authorized" for the transport of pure ethyl chloride, UN1037. However, apart from the general requirement for gas cylinders to be compatible with their contents, no specific mention is made of the prohibition of aluminium alloy cylinders containing mixtures of which ethyl chloride is a constituent (e.g. Liquefied gas, flammable, n.o.s. UN3161).

With immediate effect, operators holding CAA approval to carry dangerous goods, who are offered ethyl chloride or any mixture of liquefied flammable gas containing ethyl chloride, should confirm with the shipper that the cylinder is not constructed of aluminium alloy.

The ICAO Dangerous Goods Panel has been made aware of the incident and intends taking appropriate action. In the meantime, this warning together with a similar one by the US FAA has been posted on the Dangerous Goods home page of the ICAO website.

IFALPA welcomes these actions and urges all regulators to disseminate guidance to shippers, freight forwarders and air carriers to avoid transporting Ethyl Chloride or Ethyl Chloride mixtures in aluminum cylinders or other aluminium packaging.



IFALPA provides this data for information only, In all cases pilots should follow their company's guidance and procedures.

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