



Republic of the Philippines  
CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY OF THE PHILIPPINES

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 21-2021

CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY  
OF THE PHILIPPINES  
CERTIFIED PHOTOCOPY  
(NOT VALID WITH ERASURE/ALTERATION)

TO : ALL AIR OPERATORS

FROM : THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

SUBJECT : TRANSPORTATION OF BLOOD AND BLOOD PRODUCTS  
BY AIR

DATE : 21 JUNE 2021

*Mar Aaron N. De Leon* 6-29-2021  
MAR AARON N. DE LEON  
Records Officer I  
Central Records and Archives Division

The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines recognizes the importance of transporting collected blood and blood products by air without delay in order to preserve the viability and functionality of the blood. The delays brought about by flight restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant delays in operations including the transportation of blood and blood products for blood transfusion or preparation of blood products to be used for blood transfusion.

In view of this, for humanitarian consideration, all air operators are hereby directed to prioritize and expedite the transport of blood by air in order to prevent damage and to preserve its quality and viability, provided that the ICAO Doc. 9284 – *Technical Instructions to the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air* and the following shall be strictly observed:

1. The blood or blood products shall be packed in a leak-proof primary receptacle, a leak proof secondary package, and outer packaging with adequate strength for its capacity, mass and intended use. Such packaging must be marked with “Exempt blood or blood products”;
2. The aforementioned package shall be in accordance with the Air Operator’s allowable dimension as provided in the aircraft specification;
3. If the blood to be transported is refrigerated or frozen, the following conditions shall be met:
  - a. When dry ice or liquid nitrogen is used in order to keep the blood cold, all applicable requirements of the ICAO Technical Instructions or IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations shall be complied with. Ice or dry ice

shall be placed outside the secondary packaging or in the outer packaging. Interior supports must be provided to secure the secondary packaging in the original position after the ice or dry ice dissipated. If ice is used, the outside packaging shall be leak-proof. For carbon dioxide (solid dry ice) is used, the packaging shall be designed and constructed to permit the release of carbon dioxide gas to prevent build-ups of pressure that could rupture the packaging;

- b. The primary receptacle and the secondary packaging shall maintain the integrity at the temperature of the refrigerant used, as well as the temperatures and the pressures which could result if the refrigeration was lost;
  - c. Personnel involved in the acceptance, handling, storage and transportation of the shipment with dry ice or liquid nitrogen shall have the necessary Dangerous Goods training appropriate to their responsibilities; and
4. The aforementioned package shall be accompanied by a Certification of Testing/Packing and/authorization letter issued by the Department of Health.

For compliance.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL:

  
CAPTAIN/DONALDO/A. MENDOZA  
*Deputy Director General for Operations*

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