Pursuant to subsection 31(2.1) of the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, 1992 (TDG Act) the Minister may, in the public interest, issue a temporary certificate authorizing any activity to be carried on in a manner that does not comply with the TDG Act.

Following the declaration of a pandemic outbreak of a novel coronavirus (COVID-19) by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020 and with the adoption of temporary measures put in place by provincial authorities, it may be difficult to either obtain or provide recurrent training as required by the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations (TDG Regulations).

In my opinion, the issuance of a temporary certificate is in the public interest and I hereby authorize the handling, the offering for transport, or the transport of dangerous goods in a manner that does not comply with:

- section 6.5 of the TDG Regulations, and
- the requirement to have recurrent training every 24 months, as set out in paragraph 4.2.3 in Chapter 4, Training, of Part 1, General, of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Technical Instructions, incorporated in subsection 12.1(1) of the TDG Regulations.

This temporary certificate is subject to the following terms and conditions:

a) The dangerous goods are being handled, offered for transport, or transported by a person who was in possession of a valid and compliant transportation of dangerous goods (TDG) training certificate on March 1, 2020;

b) The person must have a sound knowledge of all TDG aspects directly related to their duties;
c) The person who handles, offers for transport or transports dangerous goods, or who directly supervises another person engaged in these activities, under this temporary certificate, must give his or her expired training certificate to an inspector or a peace officer immediately upon request;

d) All efforts should be made to ensure that employees are provided recurrent training through any means possible such as webinars, online courses, on the job training; and

e) Employers must ensure to enroll their employees to renew their training certificate at the first available opportunity once employees providing the training or training establishments have resumed their training operations.

This temporary certificate does not remove the obligation for a person who handles, offers for transport, or transports dangerous goods to be adequately trained.

For greater certainty, this temporary certificate provides no regulatory relief other than specifically stated herein. Therefore, all other requirements of the TDG Act and the TDG Regulations apply.

This temporary certificate takes effect on March 27, 2020. It remains in effect until the earliest of:

- September 30, 2020, or
- the day it is cancelled in writing by the Minister of Transport.

Benoit Turcotte
Director General
Transportation of Dangerous Goods Directorate
Transport Canada

Date: March 27, 2020

For more information: Approvals and Special Regulatory Projects
Transportation of Dangerous Goods,
Transport Canada
300 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N5

E-mail: tdgpermits-permistmd@tc.gc.ca