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Dangerous Goods Trainers Association Formally Launched

Phoenix, AZ, October 1, 2008—The Dangerous Goods Trainers Association (DGTA) was formally launched today, following nearly two years of discussion, planning and organizational meetings. The new association's first public meeting will be held on October 21st in conjunction with LabelMaster's 2008 Dangerous Goods Instructors' Symposium in Deerfield Beach, Florida.

Dangerous goods trainers specialize in training personnel involved in preparing for dangerous goods shipments and the national and interenational shipment of regulated substances for transport by road, rail, air and sea.

"Training for these employees must be more than a 'check-the-box' event," says Rick Barlow, U.S. Manager of Logistics Compliance for LyondellBasell, one of the world's largest polymers, petrochemicals and fuels companies, with headquarters in the Netherlands.

The mission of the new association is to enhance the professionalism of the hundreds of dangerous goods instructors around the world by promoting high standards of competency through education, communications, networking and a worldwide voluntary, independent instructor certification system. The development of the new certification program, tentatively titled Certified Dangerous Good Trainer© (CDGT©), is DGTA's primary initial objective.

Mr. Barlow continues, "The only way to ensure that meaningful training is provided is to utilize knowledgeable, skilled trainers. The planned DGTA trainer certification will be an indication that a trainer will be able to supply this critical training."

DGTA is organized as an independent sub-association within the Phoenix, Arizona-based National Environmental, Safety, and Health Training Association (NESHTA). DGTA began formal organizational efforts with NESHTA's assistance early this year, and expect to complete its organizational work by the end of the year.

"Effective training is the single most important contributor to safety in hazmat transportation," says Peter Mackay, managing editor of London-based Hazardous Cargo Bulletin. "DGTA's certification program will, for the first time, provide recognition for those professionals who do so much to ensure that hazmat employees are equipped with the knowledge they need to do their jobs properly." Neil McCulloch, Montreal, Quebec-based editor of LabelMaster's Air Shipper™ publication, adds, "With inadequate training being identified as the number one violation of the regulations, this initiative is the most important step forward towards safety and compliance that we've seen in years."

The founders of DGTA conceived the new organization to provide a forum for dangerous goods trainers around the world, as well as to develop a voluntary accredited certification program. The latter will be patterned on the Certified Environmental, Safety and Health Trainer (CET)[®] program. The CET program was founded by NESHTA and is now operated by the independent CET Board of Certification. The CET program is the only comprehensive, accredited certification for training professionals who design, deliver and manage safety, occupational health and environmental training. With DGTA as a part of its organization, NESHTA adds the specialty for global dangerous goods transportation training to its existing list of environmental, safety and health specialty areas practiced by its members.

As its first order of business, DGTA members and other industry specialists will develop and validate a blueprint for certification examinations based on requirements established by:

- International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
- International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- Canadian Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations (TDG)
- European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (RID)
- European Regulations Concerning the International Transport of Dangerous Goods by Rail (ADR)
- U. S. Hazardous Materials Transportation Regulations (49 CFR)

The certification examinations will be designed and managed to conform to ANSI and ASTM standards for environmental, safety and health training and the certification of individuals. While founded and sponsored by DGTA, once fully developed the certification will be managed by an independent board of certification.

For additional information, contact

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Also visit www.neshta.org and www.dgtrainers.org.