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Release: November 7, 2005

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Progress Made in Efforts to Allow Fuel Cells and Fuel Cartridges On Board Passenger Airliners *ICAO Responds to USFCC Proposal on Technical Instructions*

WASHINGTON DC – November 7, 2005 – The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has drafted conditions that will allow the transportation and use of fuel cells and fuel cartridges on board passenger airliners. The ICAO acted in response to a US Fuel Cell Council proposal to amend the ICAO Technical Instructions.

The action came during a two-week meeting of the ICAO Dangerous Goods Panel in Montreal. The panel is still finalizing its meeting results for approval by the ICAO Air Navigation Committee, but the draft language allows the transportation and use of fuel cells using butane fuel cells, formic acid fuel cells, direct methanol fuel cells, and reformed methanol fuel cells by passengers and crew. The new conditions: require compliance with the International Electrotechnical Commission Specification for Micro Fuel Cell Safety, place limits on the size and number of fuel cartridges to be carried, and allow transportation in carry-on baggage only.

Once ratified, this passenger exception would go into effect in the ICAO Technical Instructions on January 1, 2007. The various member states (US, UK, Japan, et al) will all need to revise their own rules prior to actual implementation.

"The ability to move fuel cells and fuel cartridges as passenger carry-on items opens the door for clean, efficient fuel cells to provide extended run-times and new device technologies to the international traveler," said USFCC Technical Director Robert Wichert: "US Fuel Cell Council members worked very hard to develop and support this approval and they can now realize the benefits of the international use of their new technologies."

"On behalf of the USFCC, I want to thank the panel for its hard work to date; the drafting was time consuming and involved many private and public sector organizations," said Robert Rose, USFCC Executive Director. "A successful outcome will be an important advance for the fuel cell industry."

Fuel cell technologies have the power to change the way we make and use energy. With 120 members, the US Fuel Cell Council is the voice of the fuel cell industry. For more information on USFCC, visit www.usfcc.com.

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