



香港特別行政區政府
民航處
Civil Aviation Department
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Dangerous Goods Advisory Circular DGAC 5/2015

Lithium Batteries Incidents

Recently this Department has received 4 reports of dangerous goods occurrences involving undeclared and/or mis-declared lithium batteries in air cargo that were exported from Hong Kong. Among these cases, 3 of them involved lithium batteries which were found emitting smoke during cargo disassembling in the warehouse of the destination or transit stop. Although the smoke emitted from all 3 occurrences was immediately extinguished and no person was injured, the incidents revealed the following serious deficiencies in the air cargo supply chain:

1. Use of false or inadequate descriptions

The descriptions declared on the Air Waybill or manifest for all the occurrences did not fully reflect all the contents of the concerned air cargo. The nature of goods described on the Air Waybill or manifest were mostly related to “mobile phone accessories”, “tablet accessories”, “camera accessories”, “laptop accessories” and “jump starter”. Although lithium batteries were not declared in these cases, they were found in the concerned cargo.

2. Mis-declared Packing Instructions

In one of the occurrences, despite the declaration of “Lithium Ion Batteries in Compliance with Section II of PI967”, the energy level of the concerned lithium batteries were found exceeding 100Wh. In such case the batteries should have been classified and packed in accordance with Section I requirements.

In view of the serious potential hazards associated with the improper handling of lithium batteries in air transport, the airlines, issuing carriers' agents, handling agents and freight forwarders are reminded to exercise extra vigilance when offering cargo reservations to shippers who are new to your company, or if your company has no direct contact with the shippers but only deals with them through one or more intermediate parties in the air cargo supply chain. Freight forwarders and air cargo acceptance personnel are also strongly urged to seek confirmation from shippers about the actual contents of the shipment in case of doubt.

Should you have any query about this circular, please contact Safety Officers (Dangerous Goods) at 2910 6981 or 2910 6982.

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An electronic version of this circular can be downloaded at
<http://www.cad.gov.hk/english/DGAC.html>