



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 1/2017**

### **Prevention of Undeclared Lithium Batteries Shipment**

#### Undeclared Lithium Batteries Occurrences

This Department has received a number of dangerous goods occurrence reports recently involving undeclared lithium batteries in air cargo consignments exported from Hong Kong. Some of these occurrences involved air cargo originating from the **e-commerce sector**. Whereas the nature of goods described on the Air Waybill or manifest were mostly related to “**plastic shell**”, “**denim sample**”, “**LED lamp**”, “**mobile phone shell**”, “**adaptor**”, “**clothes**”, “**shoes**” and “**toy**”, the contents of the consignments **contained lithium batteries** (either shipped as spare batteries or as ‘batteries contained in equipment’) which were not fully described and reflected in the Air Waybill or manifest. Investigations are being carried out by this Department on these occurrences.

#### Shippers’ and Freight Forwarders’ Responsibilities

In view of the serious potential hazards associated with the undeclared and improper handling of lithium batteries in air transport, the air cargo industry is hereby reminded to exercise extra vigilance during the acceptance of all cargo consignments, including consolidated consignments. If undeclared lithium batteries are suspected to be contained in the consignments, confirmation must be sought from the shippers, which may include your e-commerce business partners, and careful checking of the shipments must be conducted as appropriate. In case undeclared lithium batteries are found, the consignments must not be accepted and records showing rejection of such consignments must be preserved for a minimum of 6 months for inspection.

Contravention of Dangerous Goods (Consignment by Air) (Safety) Regulations

The consignment of undeclared dangerous goods (e.g. lithium batteries) constitutes a contravention of the Dangerous Goods (Consignment by Air) (Safety) Regulations (Cap. 384A of the Laws of Hong Kong), and the shipper and/or freight forwarder involved are liable for prosecution. On conviction, the shipper and/or the freight forwarder may be subject to a fine of \$250,000 and imprisonment for 2 years.

Shippers and freight forwarders involved in dangerous goods occurrences may also be subject to closer monitoring and additional inspection requirements by this Department. A remedial action plan must be provided to demonstrate the actions taken to prevent recurrence to the satisfaction of this Department.

Should there be any query regarding this circular, please contact the Dangerous Goods Office at 2910 6982, 2910 6986 or 2910 6981.

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