



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 1/2024**

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### **Undeclared / Mis-declared Lithium Batteries and Damaged Portable Electronic Devices**

With the advancement and expansion of lithium battery technologies in everyday applications, products containing lithium batteries offered for air transport have been increasing in quantity, variety and energy level, and thus, the associated potential safety risks as well.

2. Bearing this in mind, the CAD hereby reminds the air cargo industry, including freight forwarders, warehouse personnel, cargo terminal operators, and airlines to remain vigilant and exercise caution when accepting and handling lithium battery consignments to ensure that they are properly classified, packed, marked, labelled and declared for air transport in accordance with the Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air published by the International Civil Aviation Organization. Considerations should be taken to implement appropriate safety risk management measures for detecting and identifying non-compliance of consignments of higher risks in the early stages of air cargo supply chain, and preventing them from loading into aircraft.

3. **The CAD has the following observations on the recent dangerous goods occurrences and their on-going investigations, and hence would like to draw special attention of the air cargo industry to the handling and acceptance of e-commerce consignments for popular air cargo routes or consolidation centres, such as the Middle East –**

- i. Discrepancy between Indication on Air Waybill and Marking on Cargo Packages

There have been instances where a consignment had an indication on the Air Waybill with a compliance statement such as “Lithium ion batteries in compliance with Section II of PI967”, but the cargo packages were found to have been affixed with UN3091 Lithium metal battery marks, suggesting undeclared and/or mis-declared lithium metal batteries

were transported. **When accepting cargo from shippers, all sides of the packages should be thoroughly inspected for dangerous goods marks and labels to ensure they correspond to the information stated on transport documents.**

ii. Inadequate Packaging and Damaged Portable Electronic Devices

Some consignments were found having packages that were not providing adequate protections to the portable electronic devices contained therein, such as using carton boxes with insufficient strength and rigidity, or not providing separation between devices. In certain instances, the consignments that had the indication of “returned mobile phones” on their transport documents were found to contain damaged devices, potentially containing defective or damaged lithium batteries which are forbidden for air transport and posing significant safety risks to the air transport system. **Special attention should be paid on those consignments with such indication on transport documents submitted by shippers, including but not limited to commercial invoices and packing lists.**

iii. High Energy Lithium Ion Batteries Mis-declared as Equipment (PI967)

As portable power supply units and electric bikes and scooters become more popular among consumers around the world, there have been instances where high energy lithium ion battery units from those products were mixed into consignments that only indicated with the “Lithium ion batteries in compliance with Section II of PI967” statement. Such consignments were not packed with certified UN packaging which are capable of withstanding stronger forces of impact and crush, and did not provide adequate hazard communication to cargo handling personnel such as lacking proper documentation and labelling, and therefore exposed the batteries to higher risks of being damaged during transportation. The potential risks of lithium battery fire in aircraft could be catastrophic, and **due considerations should be taken to apply measures with the aim of identifying and minimizing mis-declared lithium batteries concealed in consignments prior to offering them for air transport.**

Reminder to industry

4. The carriage of non-compliant, undeclared or mis-declared lithium battery consignments are potential threats to aviation safety that may result in serious consequences. In this connection, the CAD once again reminds the air cargo industry that cargo operation and acceptance personnel of airlines, handling agents and freight forwarders must remain vigilant and exercise caution during the cargo acceptance process to ensure aviation safety. **In case of doubt, documented clarification from the shippers about the actual contents of the consignments should be sought,**

**and appropriate checks on such consignments should be conducted with documented evidence to demonstrate on record that due diligence has been exercised by the parties concerned.**

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

5. The consignment of undeclared or mis-declared dangerous goods constitutes a contravention of 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.

6. Shippers and freight forwarders involved in dangerous goods occurrences may also be subject to closer regulatory monitoring and additional inspection requirements imposed by the CAD. A corrective action plan must be provided to demonstrate the actions taken, with relevant supporting evidence, to prevent recurrence to the satisfaction of the CAD.

7. Should there be any query regarding this circular, please contact the Dangerous Goods Office at 2910 6856 or 2910 6857.

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