



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 2/2023

Requirements on Packages of Lithium Ion or Metal Batteries Prepared in accordance with Section II of Packing Instructions 966, 967, 969 and 970

To address the issues on (a) inadequately protected lithium battery packages placed in overpacks¹ or non-rigid bags, especially those shipped via e-commerce, and (b) the potential for the lithium batteries contained in these packages to be damaged by not being properly secured or protected against contact with other equipment within the same outer packaging, the following new requirements have been added to the 2023-2024 edition of the Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air published by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (“ICAO TIs”):

- (A) In Section II of Packing Instructions (PI) 966, 967, 969 and 970, when lithium battery packages are placed in an overpack:
 - i. the lithium battery packages must be secured within the overpack; and
 - ii. the intended function of each lithium battery package must not be impaired by the overpack.
- (B) In Section II of PI 967 and 970, where multiple pieces of equipment are packed in the same outer packaging, each piece of equipment must be packed to prevent contact with other equipment.

2. The enhanced packaging measures mentioned in paragraph (A) above are in line with the recommendations promulgated by the Civil Aviation Department in August 2021 with a view to providing further protection to cargo with lithium batteries packed with or contained in equipment and ensuring aviation safety. With

¹ The ICAO TIs defines overpack as “an enclosure used by a single shipper to contain one or more packages and to form one handling unit for convenience of handling and stowage”. A unit load device is not considered as an overpack.

effect from **1 January 2023**, it is mandatory for all stakeholders in the air cargo industry especially shippers to comply with the above requirements of the ICAO TIs.

3. An illustration of the means of compliance with the afore-mentioned requirements could be found in Figure 1 below. In gist, the packaging materials for the overpack should be **strong rigid** (e.g. carton box of adequate strength). **Nylon bags alone should not be considered as strong rigid** (see Figure 1A). They may only be used as an extra layer of protection for strong rigid overpacks of PI 966, 967, 969 and 970 Section II lithium battery shipments (see Figure 1B). In addition, the packages concerned shall be **secured within the overpack** in order to provide further assurance on the protection of the lithium ion or metal batteries packed with or contained in equipment therein (see Figure 1C).



A.



B.



C.



D.

Figure 1. Illustration of enhanced packaging requirements

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

5. Dangerous Goods Advisory Circular 2/2021 is hereby superseded.

– END –

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