



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 3/2023

Handling of Lithium Battery Shipments

In view of the growing popularity of everyday electronic products powered by lithium batteries and the associated increase in demand for air transport of such products, the CAD strongly urges the air cargo industry to keep up the various safety risk mitigating measures being taken while processing lithium battery shipments, some of which are described below –

Shippers, freight forwarders and aircraft operators

- i. Handling lithium battery shipments with care, and preventing cargo packages from rough handling (such as impact, crush, etc.) or falling from height;

and

- ii. Avoid build-up of heavy cargo (such as wooden crates) on top of lithium battery shipments without adequate protection of packaging with comparable performance level to prevent crushing of lithium battery commodities on the lower layer of the unit load device.

Freight forwarders and aircraft operators

- iii. In case of doubt, documented clarification from the shippers about the actual contents of the shipments (especially e-commerce shipments) should be sought, and appropriate checks on such shipments should be conducted with documented evidence to demonstrate on record that due diligence has been exercised by the parties concerned;

and

- iv. Applying open-box checking on shipments (such as e-commerce shipments) declared as in compliance with Section II of Packing

Instruction (PI) 967 with a view to verifying if any hidden or undeclared dangerous goods such as lithium ion batteries of PI 965 are contained therein.

Aircraft operators

- v. Taking into consideration factors such as quantity of lithium battery shipments, types of lithium batteries, the risk profiles of lithium battery suppliers and their quality control systems, etc. when conducting safety risk assessment for the transport of lithium batteries;

and

- vi. Applying additional documentation checking on certain shipments, taking into account results of the safety risk assessment and relevant quality control activities, and previous occurrence record of relevant parties, etc., as appropriate.

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

3. Dangerous Goods Advisory Circular 2/2021 is hereby superseded.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>