

Guidance Document
New Lithium Battery Packing Instructions and
Recommended Transitional Period

The 2013-2014 Edition of the Technical Instructions implements significant changes to Packing Instruction 965 which applies to lithium ion cells and batteries and Packing Instruction 968 which applies to lithium metal cells and batteries. These changes are expected to impact a large number of cell and battery shipments.

To facilitate the transition to the new requirements in Packing Instructions 965 and 968, it is recommended that aviation authorities provide for a transitional period to 31 January 2013 to enable packages prepared for transport in December 2012 in accordance with the 2011-2012 Edition of the Technical Instructions to continue in transport.

The transitional period also will provide shippers of lithium batteries adequate time to make the necessary changes to their packaging and logistics operations in order to comply with the new requirements in the 2013-2014 Edition of the Technical Instructions.
