



WORKING PAPER

**DANGEROUS GOODS PANEL (DGP)
WORKING GROUP MEETING (DGP-WG/24)**

Montreal, 21 to 25 October 2024

Agenda Item 3: Facilitating safe transport of dangerous goods by air (Ref: REC-A-DGS-2027)

**CLARIFICATION OF THE EXCEPTIONS FOR CARRIAGE OF MEDICAL DEVICES AND
BATTERIES FOR PERSONAL USE**

(Presented by the Dangerous Goods Advisory Council (DGAC))

SUMMARY

This working paper seeks discussion on whether the Technical Instructions should make provision for the carriage of lithium battery powered equipment by medical professionals, when passengers, for the purposes of urgent medical care when the items in question are not for the personal use of those medical professionals. No amendment is proposed in this working paper.

Action by the DGP-WG: Action by the DGP-WG is in paragraph 2.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 There was a discussion at the twenty-ninth meeting of the Dangerous Goods Panel (Montréal, 13 to 17 November 2023) (DGP/29) on the carriage of lithium battery powered medical equipment, including spare batteries, by medical professionals for the purposes of urgent medical care e.g. when the equipment and/or batteries were required for a lifesaving medical procedure (see paragraph 3.5 of the DGP/29 report). The passenger and crew provisions of Part 8, whilst providing for the carriage of such items, limit these to when they are for “personal use”, a term not defined in the Technical Instructions but generally interpreted to mean being owned or used by the passenger in whose baggage the item is contained. Concern had been expressed by medical device manufacturers and users that carriage may not be permitted by operators (with the resultant delay/cancellation of the medical procedure), as the devices in question would not necessarily meet such an interpretation. It was therefore proposed to amend Table 8-1 to take account of this situation. The discussion at DGP/29 was based on a late paper, limiting the opportunity for panel members to consider the proposal, and it was not agreed. However, some panel members expressed sympathy for the concerns raised and indicated a willingness to discuss the issue in the next biennium.

2. ACTION BY THE DGP-WG

2.1 No proposal is made in this working paper, instead the DGP-WG is invited to explore opportunities to make provision in the Technical Instructions for the carriage of lithium battery powered medical devices, for urgent medical care, by medical professionals in baggage, with a view to a formal proposal being made at DGP-WG/25 or DGP/30. Whilst the original proposal focussed on the passenger and crew provisions of Part 8, discussion may identify other solutions, for example the general exceptions of Part 1;1.1.5.

— END —