



WORKING PAPER

**DANGEROUS GOODS PANEL (DGP)
WORKING GROUP MEETING (DGP-WG/25)**

Delhi, India, 21 to 25 April 2025

Agenda Item 4: Managing safety risks posed by the carriage of energy storage devices by air (Ref: Job Card DGP.003.05)

HARMONIZATION OF TERMINOLOGY: PACKING INSTRUCTIONS 965 AND 966

(Presented by L. Cascardo)

SUMMARY

This working paper proposes an amendment to Packing Instruction 965 to align its terminology with that of Packing Instruction 966. The term “may only be shipped” in Packing Instruction 965 differs from the terminology chosen in Packing Instruction 966, which states “may only be offered for transport”. The difference has caused confusion in the industry regarding whether the responsibility differs between the two instructions. To prevent misinterpretation, this paper suggests harmonizing the wording by adopting the terminology already approved in Packing Instruction 966.

Action by the DGP-WG is in paragraph 2.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Dangerous Goods Panel approved changes to Packing Instruction 966 during its twenty-ninth meeting (13 to 17 November 2023) (DGP/29). In this revision, the panel deliberately selected the phrase “may only be offered for transport” to describe regulatory constraints on the state of charge of lithium-ion batteries packed with equipment. For example:

Part 4

PACKING INSTRUCTIONS

...

Chapter 11

CLASS 9 – MISCELLANEOUS DANGEROUS GOODS

11.1 PACKING INSTRUCTIONS

...

Packing Instruction 966

...

I. SECTION I

...

I.1 General requirements

...

- Lithium ion cells and/or batteries at a state of charge exceeding 30 per cent of their rated capacity may only be offered for transport with the approval of the appropriate national authorities of the State of Origin and the State of the Operator under the written conditions established by those authorities

1.2 However, in Packing Instruction 965, the terminology remains “may only be shipped”, as illustrated below:

Packing Instruction 965

...

IA. SECTION IA

...

IA.1 General requirements

...

- Cells and batteries must be offered for transport at a state of charge not exceeding 30 per cent of their rated capacity. Cells and/or batteries at a state of charge greater than 30 per cent of their rated capacity may only be shipped with the approval of the State of Origin and the State of the Operator under the written conditions established by those authorities.

1.3 This discrepancy in wording has led to inquiries from the industry, questioning whether the distinction implies a difference in responsibility within the supply chain. Specifically, some have interpreted “shipped” as placing responsibility primarily on the shipper, whereas “offered for transport” could imply broader responsibility among multiple entities. Additionally, we have been asked whether “may only be shipped” means the approvals from the State of Origin and the State of the Operator are available at the time of shipping, whereas “may only be offered for transport” could be interpreted as referring to the moment it is handed over to the operator.

1.4 As far as we can remember from past discussions, the intent of the regulations is not to create any distinction between the terminology used on the requirements outlined in Packing Instruction 965 and Packing Instruction 966. To avoid ambiguity, we propose harmonizing the terminology in Packing Instruction 965 by replacing “may only be shipped” with “may only be offered for transport”, ensuring alignment with Packing Instruction 966.

2. **ACTION BY THE DGP-WG**

2.1 The DGP-WG is invited to discuss the proposed amendment in the appendix to this working paper to align the terminology between Packing Instructions 965 and 966.

APPENDIX

PROPOSED TEXT

Part 4

PACKING INSTRUCTIONS

...

Chapter 11

CLASS 9 – MISCELLANEOUS DANGEROUS GOODS

11.1 PACKING INSTRUCTIONS

...

Packing Instruction 965

...

IA.1 **General requirements**

- Part 4;1 requirements must be met.
- Cells and batteries must be offered for transport at a state of charge not exceeding 30 per cent of their rated capacity. Cells and/or batteries at a state of charge greater than 30 per cent of their rated capacity may only be ~~shipped~~ **offered for transport** with the approval of the State of Origin and the State of the Operator under the written conditions established by those authorities.

...

IB.1 **General requirements**

- Cells and batteries must be packed in strong outer packagings that conform to Part 4;1.1.1, 1.1.3.1 and 1.1.10 (except 1.1.10.1).
- Cells and batteries must be offered for transport at a state of charge not exceeding 30 per cent of their rated capacity. Cells and/or batteries at a state of charge greater than 30 per cent of their rated capacity may only be ~~shipped~~ **offered for transport** with the approval of the State of Origin and the State of the Operator under the written conditions established by those authorities.

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