



DANGEROUS GOODS PANEL (DGP) MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP OF THE WHOLE

Auckland, New Zealand, 4 to 8 May 2009

Agenda Item 5: Resolution, where possible, of the non-recurrent work items identified by the Air Navigation Commission or the panel

5.3: Review of provisions for dangerous goods relating to batteries

- a) **lithium batteries**
- b) **battery-powered devices**
- c) **battery-powered mobility aids**

TRANSPORT OF LITHIUM BATTERIES THROUGH THE POST

(Presented by the Universal Postal Union)

SUMMARY

This information paper presents the issues related to the transport of lithium batteries through the post.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The recent 2009-2010 Edition of the *Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air* (Doc 9284) incorporated a number of revisions to requirements for the transport of lithium batteries

1.2 Each year the Universal Postal Union holds meetings of the Postal Operations Council. Within these meetings the Postal Security Group meets to discuss relevant security issues. As part of this group, there is a Dangerous Goods Project Group, Chaired by Denmark.

1.3 The Universal Postal Convention, Article 15, states dangerous substances are not admitted except:

- a) radioactive materials mentioned in Article 16.1; and
- b) biological substances mentioned in Article 16.2

1.4 During the most recent Postal Security Group meeting held on 23 March 2009, Japan Post presented on the most recent changes regarding the transport of lithium batteries.

1.5 Japan Post outlined that there is a high potential demand for sending electronic equipment by post, such as personal computers, mobile phones and digital cameras that often have lithium batteries contained in equipment.

1.6 Based on the ICAO Guidance Document – on the transport of Lithium Batteries:

A lithium battery handling label is not required when a package contains no more than 4 cells or 2 batteries installed in equipment prepared in accordance with Section II of Packing instructions 967 and 970. This applies to UN 3481 Lithium ion batteries contained in equipment (See section II of Packing instructions 967) and UN 3091 Lithium metal battery contained in equipment (See section II of Packing Instructions 970). Additionally because there is no labelling requirement, the accompanying document mentioned in the additional packing requirements are not required.

1.7 Non-rechargeable lithium button cells or batteries are used in quality test letters to measure service standards across the postal network. In most cases the size and lithium content of the cells and batteries meet the provisions set out in Special Provision (SP) 188 in the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (Model Regulations) published by the United Nations. Lithium cells and batteries meeting the requirements of SP188 are excepted from most of the regulations applicable to the transport of dangerous goods.

1.8 In order to provide clear direction and guidance to the designated operators on the transport of lithium batteries, the Universal Postal Union through the Dangerous Goods Project Group will:

- a) Clearly and concisely state what is allowed (with visual aids provided to the designated operator)
- b) Additionally clearly define packaging requirements and provide documentation outlining proper procedures for packaging

1.9 Based on the 2009-2010 Technical Instructions, discuss possibility of mailing limited quantities of lithium batteries in the post, as outlined in paragraph 1.6, where 4 or fewer lithium cells or 2 or fewer lithium batteries (contained in equipment) can be conveyed by air.

1.10 As a result of the discussions, changes may be required in the Universal Postal Union Convention. Additionally, inclusion of packaging requirements for Letter Post and Parcel Post Regulations will be necessary.

2. ACTION BY THE DGP-WG

2.1 The DGP-WG is invited to consider the possibility of mailing limited quantities of lithium batteries in the post, as outlined in paragraph 1.6, where 4 or fewer lithium cells or 2 or fewer lithium batteries (contained in equipment) can be conveyed by air..