



WORKING PAPER

DANGEROUS GOODS PANEL (DGP)

TWENTY-FIRST MEETING

Montréal, 5 to 16 November 2007

Agenda Item 2: Development of recommendations for amendments to the *Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air* (Doc 9284) for incorporation in the 2009-2010 Edition

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

5.4: Review of provisions for dangerous goods relating to lithium batteries

LITHIUM BATTERIES CONTAINED IN EQUIPMENT – WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS ON CARGO AIRCRAFT

(Presented by the Portable Rechargeable Battery Association)

SUMMARY

This paper proposes to change the cargo aircraft weight limitations for lithium batteries contained in equipment.

Action by the DGP is in paragraph 2.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Portable Rechargeable Battery Association (PRBA) has identified an inconsistency in the weight restrictions in Packing Instruction (PI) 912 that applies to “Lithium batteries contained in equipment.” Therefore, we are proposing minor changes to PI 912 to make it consistent with the two other packing instructions (PI 903 and PI 918) that apply to lithium batteries.

1.2 Currently, the weight restrictions in Packing Instruction 912 require that “Not more than 5 kg of lithium batteries may be contained in any piece of equipment.” This applies to both passenger and cargo aircraft. By comparison, the weight restrictions in Packing Instruction 918 for “Lithium batteries packed with equipment” require that packages (containing batteries) must not exceed 5 kg gross mass for passenger aircraft and 35 kg gross mass for cargo aircraft. “Lithium batteries” shipped under Packing Instruction 903 also are limited to 5 kg (gross) for passenger aircraft and 35 kg (gross) for cargo aircraft. The chart below summarizes these current weight restrictions:

	UN Number	Packing Instruction	Passenger Aircraft	Cargo Aircraft
Lithium batteries	UN3090	903	5 kg (Gross)	35 kg (Gross)
Lithium batteries packed with equipment	UN3091	918	5 kg (Gross)	35 kg (Gross)
Lithium batteries contained in equipment	UN3091	912	5 kg (Net)	5 kg (Net)

1.3 It is unclear why the weight limitation in PI 912 was established at only 5 kg for cargo aircraft. There is no greater risk in shipping a 35 kg battery contained in equipment than shipping a 35 kg battery packed with equipment. Therefore, PRBA proposes to change the weight limitation for “Lithium batteries contained in equipment” referenced in PI 912 to 35 kg (net weight) for cargo aircraft in order to be more consistent with PI 903 and PI 918 and eliminate confusion over these weight restrictions

2. ACTION BY THE DGP

2.1 The DGP is invited to adopt the changes to Special Provision 912 as shown below:

912	PACKING INSTRUCTION 912	912
<p>This entry applies to cells and batteries in any form, including lithium polymer and lithium ion cells and batteries, when contained in equipment.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Not more than 5 kg <u>net weight</u> of lithium batteries may be contained in any piece of equipment <u>for passenger aircraft or not more than 35 kg net weight for cargo aircraft</u>.</p>		

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