



WORKING PAPER

DANGEROUS GOODS PANEL (DGP)

TWENTY-FOURTH MEETING

Montréal, 28 October to 8 November 2013

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

5.1: Review of provisions for the transport of lithium batteries

**UN MANUAL OF TEST AND CRITERIA FOR LITHIUM BATTERIES AND CELLS:
CLARIFICATION OF EDITION AND AMENDMENT NUMBER**

(Presented by Q. Xu)

SUMMARY

This working paper suggests that the reference to fifth revised edition of the *UN Manual of Tests and Criteria* in Note 2 of all sections to Packing Instructions 965 to 970 is unclear, and could lead to several different interpretations of which edition/amendment number could be referred to when test . And It seeks to clarify which edition of UN manual of Tests and Criteria could be referred to that lithium batteries or cells manufactured after 1 January 2014 can continue to be transported.

Action by the DGP: The DGP is invited to clarify which edition of the *UN Manual of Tests and Criteria* is referred to that lithium batteries or cells manufactured after 1 January 2014 can continue to be transported. If the decision is fifth revised edition, Amend. 1 and Amend. 2, the DGP is also invited to consider extending the transition date of 1 January 2014.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The *UN Manual of Tests and Criteria* has been revised several times. Editions include the third revised edition, fourth revised edition, fifth revised edition, Amend. 1 and Amend. 2. The latest is the fifth revised edition, Amend 1 and Amend. 2.

1.2 The manual is referred to in all sections of Packing Instructions 965 to 970 of the 2013-2014 Edition of the Technical Instructions as follows:

“Note 2.— Batteries and cells manufactured before 1 January 2014 conforming to a design type tested according to the requirements of the fifth revised edition of the UN Manual of Tests and Criteria, Part III, subsection 38.3 may continue to be transported.”

1.3 This provision references only the fifth revised edition of the *UN Manual of Tests and criteria* and does not specifically reference other editions. Consequently, lithium batteries and cells manufactured before 1 January 2014 conforming to a design type tested according to the requirements of any edition of the *UN Manual of Tests and Criteria* could, in practice, be offered for transport.

1.4 It is also confused as there is no provision to clarify that according to the requirements of which edition of the UN Manual of Tests and Criteria that lithium batteries or cells manufactured after 1 January 2014 conforming to a design type tested may continue to be transported. So for the lithium batteries and cells manufactured after 1 January 2014, someone think their design types must be tested according to the fifth revised edition Amend. 1 and Amend. 2 before they can be offered for transport, but someone still think their design types tested according to fifth revised edition of the UN manual of Test and Criteria can continue to be transported.

1.5 New design types of lithium batteries and cells have been tested according to Part III, subsection 38.3 of the *UN Manual of Tests and Criteria*, the fifth revised edition, Amend. 1 and Amend. 2 since it was issued. But compared to all the lithium batteries and cells offered for transport, the number of these newly-designed types is still very small.

1.6 If the DGP confirms that the design type for lithium batteries and cells manufactured after 1 January 2014 must be tested according to the *UN Manual of Tests and Criteria*, fifth revised edition, Amend. 1 and Amend. 2 before they can be offered for transport, a large number of lithium battery and cell types which were tested according to the previous editions need to be retested. Therefore, a longer transition period should be considered.

1.7 It is suggested that the DGP address the issues raised in this working paper as soon as possible, recognizing that there are only a few months left before 1 January 2014.

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