



WORKING PAPER

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

Montréal, 15 to 19 October 2012

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 2015-2016 Edition
2.4: Part 4 — Packing Instructions

30-DAY TRANSITION PERIOD FOR NEW LITHIUM BATTERY REGULATIONS

(Presented by PRBA – The Rechargeable Battery Association)

SUMMARY

This paper addresses the need for a 30-day transition period for the new lithium battery regulations that go into effect on 1 January 2013.

Action by the DGP-WG is in paragraph 2.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The 2013-2014 ICAO Technical Instructions contain numerous changes to Packing Instructions 965 – 970 applicable to lithium ion and lithium metal cells and batteries and equipment packed with or containing them. The most significant changes to the regulations will be to the exceptions applicable to packages of small lithium ion and lithium metal cells and batteries found in Packing Instructions 965 and 968, Section II. Starting January 1, 2013, many of these packages no longer will be excepted from the regulations.

1.2 The changes to the lithium battery regulations will affect a very large number of shipments. PRBA estimates that 90% of the 4.4 billion lithium ion cells and 90% of the 2 billion lithium metal cells manufactured last year qualify for the exceptions found in Packing Instructions 965 and 968, Section II. All are not shipped by air, but rather the overwhelming majority are small cells designed for portable applications that historically have been shipped under the existing exceptions found in Section II of the these Packing Instructions

1.3 PRBA expects there will be numerous situations in which small lithium ion and lithium metal cells and batteries and equipment packed with or containing them will first be offered for transportation in December 2012 under the existing exceptions, but will not reach their final destination

until sometime after January 1, 2013. Therefore, we believe a limited transition period to January 31, 2013 is needed to allow these shipments to reach their final destinations, and believe 30 days would be a reasonable period.

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

2.1 PRBA requests that the ICAO Dangerous Goods Panel issue an Advisory Guidance recommending that transportation authorities allow for a 30-day transition period before the new lithium battery regulations take effect. This will allow cells and batteries that may have been offered for transportation in December 2012 under the existing exceptions to reach their final destination by the end of January 2013.

— END —