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DGR 56 Ed

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Air Transport of Lithium Metal Batteries – 2015 (continued)

The ICAO Council has now approved the amendments forbidding the transport of lithium metal batteries as cargo on passenger aircraft for incorporation in the 2015-2016 Edition of the Technical Instructions. The Council also approved Special Provision A201 (as revised below), with the understanding that the work on the development of packaging performance criteria for lithium metal cells and batteries with a lithium content of not more than 0.3 g and conditions for the granting of approvals to be shipped on a passenger aircraft will be completed and agreed by the DGP to be brought to Council later this year. Subject to Council approval, this material will be incorporated in the 2015-2016 Edition of the Supplement to the Technical Instructions.

There were a number of concerns related to lithium batteries raised by both the Council and the ANC for which the DGP will be asked to address systematically. These include risks posed by lithium metal batteries on cargo aircraft, lithium metal batteries packed with and contained in equipment, and risks posed by lithium ion batteries.

The issue of non-compliance was raised by both bodies. Recommendation 5/3 from the report of DGP-WG/LB/2, shown below, was therefore supported, and the Council requested the ICAO Secretariat to take action in implementing it as a matter of priority.

3.3.6 In light of the above, the meeting developed the following recommendation:

Recommendation 5/3 — Development of a safety oversight and awareness programme for the safe transport of dangerous goods

That ICAO take measures to increase awareness of the risks posed by the transport of lithium batteries and to assist States in developing oversight and awareness programmes related to the safe transport of all dangerous goods, with an emphasis on lithium batteries through:

- a) awareness campaigns (including training);
- b) the development of guidance material; and
- c) focused audits of States manufacturing large quantities of lithium batteries.

This could be achieved through the establishment of a small working group tasked with developing awareness and guidance material and setting up a plan of action for ICAO to implement.

Included below is Special Provision A201 as amended by the ANC and Council below (underlined text). The words “A shipment of lithium metal batteries” was added to the beginning of the provision at the request of the ANC to ensure that States consider approvals on a case-by-case basis. Text clarifying that it is the States granting the approvals who must send copies to the ICAO Secretariat was added, as was a specific time period in which to do so.

SP A201

A shipment of lithium metal batteries may be transported on passenger aircraft only with the prior approval of the appropriate authority of the State of Origin and the State of the Operator under the written conditions established by those authorities. The conditions must include the quantity limitations, size limitations and packing requirements established in the Supplement (see S-3;4, Table S-3 1). Copies of the documents of approval, showing the quantity limitations and packing requirements, must accompany the consignment. Authorities issuing approvals in accordance with this special provision must provide a copy and must be sent to the Chief of the Dangerous Goods Section within three months of issuance via email at DGS@icao.int, via facsimile at +1 514-954-6077 or via post to the following address:

Chief, Dangerous Goods Section
International Civil Aviation Organization
999 University Street
Montreal, Quebec
CANADA H3C 5H7

When States, other than the State of Origin and the State of the Operator, have notified ICAO that they require prior approval of shipments made under this special provision, approval must also be obtained from these States, as appropriate.

All of these changes will be reflected in the 56th edition of the DGR. In addition IATA will be developing a guidance document specifically setting out the changes applicable to lithium metal batteries as of 2015. The objective of this guidance document is to raise awareness with shippers and others on the actual changes and how this applies to shipments of lithium metal batteries in accordance with Section IA, IB and II of PI 968.

In addition, as the prohibition on lithium metal batteries as cargo on passenger aircraft (PI 968 only) has now been formally approved IATA is requesting operators with variations prohibiting the carriage of lithium metal batteries on passenger aircraft review those variations with a view to removing reference to prohibition on passenger aircraft.

Nothing more