Transportation Regulations for Lithium, Lithium Ion and Polymer Cells and Batteries

**Which organizations and regulations govern the transport of lithium, lithium ion and polymer cells and batteries?**

The regulations that govern the transport of primary (non-rechargeable) lithium (metal) and rechargeable lithium ion (including polymer) cells and batteries include the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Technical Instructions and corresponding International Air Transport Association (IATA) Dangerous Goods Regulations, and the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code. In addition, lithium and lithium ion cells and batteries are regulated in the U.S. in accordance with Part 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, (49 CFR Sections 100-185) of the U.S. Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR). Section 173.185 and the Special Provisions contained in Section 172.102 provide information on the exceptions and packaging for shipping based on details of weights, tests and classifications. The hazardous materials table in Section 172.101 also provides related shipping information. The Office of Hazardous Materials Safety, which is within the U.S. Department of Transportation’s (DOT) Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), is responsible for writing the U.S. regulations that govern the transportation of hazardous materials (also known as dangerous goods) by air, rail, highway and water and drafting the regulations that govern such materials. These regulations are based on the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods Model Regulations and UN Manual of Tests and Criteria.

**What transportation regulations are currently in effect in the U.S.?**

Based on the mass of lithium in the anode of a lithium metal or lithium alloy cell (for primary cells and batteries) and equivalent lithium content (for lithium ion cells and batteries), the shipping regulations outlined in the chart below are currently in effect or go into effect on January 1, 2008. However, the U.S. DOT published a lithium battery final rule on August 9, 2007 that provides shippers additional time to comply with certain marking and testing requirements when shipping “small” cells and batteries. See footnotes below. Pages 2 and 3 contain additional requirements on shipping primary lithium (metal) cells and batteries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Cell / Battery Max. Lithium Content</th>
<th>Lithium Ion &amp; Polymer Cell / Battery Max. Lithium Content</th>
<th>Shipping Classification/Testing</th>
<th>Special Packaging/Markings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.0 gram / 2.0 grams</td>
<td>1.5 grams / 8.0 grams</td>
<td>Excepted / T1-T8(1)</td>
<td>Yes(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.0 grams / 25 grams</td>
<td>5.0 grams / 25 grams</td>
<td>Class 9 / T1-T8(3)(7)</td>
<td>Yes(5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;5.0 grams / &gt;25 grams</td>
<td>&gt;5.0 grams / &gt;25 grams</td>
<td>Class 9 / T1-T8(4)(7)</td>
<td>Yes(6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) Starting October 1, 2009, cells and batteries must pass UN T1-T8 Tests. Cells and batteries that pass UN Tests are excepted from regulation.

(2) Starting October 1, 2008, packages containing more than 12 batteries or 24 cells must meet certain packaging, marking, and shipping paper requirements. See pages 7 and 8.

(3) Cells and batteries must pass UN T1-T8 Tests. Starting October 1, 2008 must be shipped as Class 9 hazardous materials unless transported by motor vehicle or rail car.

(4) Must pass UN T1-T8 Tests and be shipped as a Class 9 hazardous material.

(5) Requires Class 9 markings, label, specification packaging, and shipping papers unless transported by motor vehicle or rail car. See page 3 and Exhibit A.

(6) Requires Class 9 markings, label, specification packaging, and shipping papers. See Exhibit A.

(7) 49 CFR 173.185(a)(1) allows for a cell or battery that was first transported prior to January 1, 2006 and is of a type tested pursuant to the UN Manual of Tests and Criteria, Third Revised Edition, 1999, need not be retested.
How is equivalent lithium content calculated for lithium ion cells and batteries?

Equivalent lithium content for lithium ion and lithium polymer cells and batteries in grams on a per cell basis is calculated as 0.3 times the rated capacity in ampere-hours. The equivalent lithium content for a battery or battery pack is the rated capacity in ampere-hours for a single cell multiplied by 0.3 and then multiplied by the number of cells in the battery.

What international transportation regulations currently are in effect?

The international transportation regulations require battery and cell manufacturers or companies that ship equipment packed with or containing these cells and batteries to meet UN testing, marking, packaging, labeling and shipping paper specifications. These regulations are incorporated into the ICAO Technical Instructions, IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations, and IMDG Code.

Based on lithium content (for primary cells and batteries) and equivalent lithium content (for lithium ion cells and batteries), the following international shipping regulations apply:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Cell / Battery Max. Lithium Content</th>
<th>Lithium Ion &amp; Polymer Cell / Battery Max. Equiv. Lithium Content</th>
<th>Shipping Classification/Testing</th>
<th>Special Packaging/Markings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.0 gram / 2.0 grams</td>
<td>1.5 grams / 8.0 grams</td>
<td>Excepted / T1-T8&lt;sup&gt;(1)&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Yes&lt;sup&gt;(2)&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;1.0 gram / &gt;2.0 grams</td>
<td>&gt;1.5 grams / &gt;8.0 grams</td>
<td>Class 9 / T1-T8&lt;sup&gt;(3)&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Yes&lt;sup&gt;(4)&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>(1)</sup> Cells and batteries must pass UN T1-T8 Tests. Cells and batteries that pass UN Tests are excepted from regulation. NOTE: The IMDG Code contains a grandfather clause for testing “small” cells and batteries until December 31, 2013.

<sup>(2)</sup> Packages containing more than 12 batteries or 24 cells must meet certain packaging, marking, and shipping paper requirements. See pages 7 and 8.

<sup>(3)</sup> Cells and batteries must pass UN T1-T8 Tests and be shipped as Class 9 hazardous materials.

<sup>(4)</sup> Requires Class 9 markings, label, specification packaging, and shipping papers. See Exhibit A.

The U.S. DOT prohibits the transport of primary lithium (metal) cells and batteries as cargo by passenger aircraft into, out of, or within the United States. What are the implications on shipments of primary lithium (metal) cells and batteries?

The U.S. DOT prohibits the offering for transportation and transportation of primary lithium (metal) cells and batteries as cargo aboard passenger-carrying aircraft into, out of, or within the United States. However, primary lithium (metal) cells with no more than 1 g of lithium content and batteries with an aggregate lithium content of no more than 2 g THAT ARE PACKED WITH OR INSTALLED IN EQUIPMENT are not subject to this prohibition provided the net weight of the batteries in each package does not exceed 5 kg and the package contains no more than the number of lithium batteries or cells necessary to power the piece of equipment.

The following statement (marking) must be placed on packages containing only primary lithium (metal) cells with no more than 1 g of lithium content and batteries with an aggregate lithium content of no more than 2 g that are excepted from regulation under the U.S. HMR: “PRIMARY LITHIUM BATTERIES – FORBIDDEN FOR TRANSPORT ABOARD PASSENGER AIRCRAFT” or “LITHIUM METAL BATTERIES - FORBIDDEN FOR TRANSPORT ABOARD PASSENGER AIRCRAFT.” The marking must be on a background of contrasting color in letters at 12 mm (0.5 inch) in height on packages having a gross mass of more than 30 kg (66 pounds); or at least 6 mm (0.25 inch) on packages having a gross mass of 30 kg (66 pounds) or less. Packages containing primary lithium (metal) cells with more than 1 g of lithium content and batteries with an aggregate lithium content of more than 2 g and shipped by cargo aircraft must contain the “Cargo Aircraft Only” label.
Recommended marking for use on packages containing primary lithium (metal) cells with no more than 1 g of lithium content and batteries with an aggregate lithium content of no more than 2 g that are excepted from regulation under the U.S. HMR:

LITHIUM METAL BATTERIES – FORBIDDEN FOR TRANSPORT ABOARD PASSENGER AIRCRAFT

The U.S. DOT’s lithium battery final rule that was published on August 9, 2007 also includes a new Special Provision 189 that provides an exception for “medium size” primary lithium (metal) cells and batteries and rechargeable lithium ion cells and batteries transported by motor vehicle or rail car. Effective October 1, 2008, Special Provision 189 provides “medium” cells and batteries transported by motor vehicle or rail car an exception from the requirements of the U.S. HMR if they meet all of the following:

(a) For primary lithium cells, the lithium content in each cell, is not more than 5 grams and the aggregate lithium content in each battery is not more than 25 grams;
(b) For lithium ion cells, the equivalent lithium content in each cell is not more than 5 grams and the aggregate equivalent lithium content in each battery, is not more than 25 grams;
(c) The cells and batteries have been tested in accordance with the tests in the UN Manual of Tests and Criteria;
(d) Cells or batteries are separated so as to prevent short circuits and are packed in a strong outer packaging or are contained in equipment;
(e) The outside of each package must be marked “LITHIUM BATTERIES - FORBIDDEN FOR TRANSPORT ABOARD AIRCRAFT AND VESSEL” on a background of contrasting color, in letters:
   (1) At least 12 mm (0.5 inch) in height on packages having a gross weight of more than 30 kg (66 pounds); or
   (2) At least 6 mm (0.25 inch) on packages having a gross weight of 30 kg (66 pounds) or less, except that smaller font may be used as necessary to fit package dimensions; and
(f) Each package with more than 12 medium batteries or 24 medium cells, except when contained in equipment, must comply with the marking, packaging, and documentation requirements listed on page 6.

Recommended marking for use on packages containing primary lithium (metal) cells with no more than 5 grams of lithium content and primary lithium (metal) batteries with an aggregate lithium content of no more than 25 grams or lithium ion cells with an equivalent lithium content of no more than 5 grams and lithium ion batteries with an aggregate equivalent lithium content of no more than 25 grams when transported by motor vehicle or rail car:

LITHIUM BATTERIES – FORBIDDEN FOR TRANSPORT ABOARD AIRCRAFT AND VESSEL
What U.S. Postal Service transportation regulations are in effect?

Effective October 5, 2007, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) revised its standards for mailing lithium and lithium ion batteries. The new standards identify all small consumer-type lithium batteries as mailable when properly packaged and labeled.

Small consumer-type primary (non-rechargeable) lithium cells or batteries (lithium metal or lithium alloy) like those used to power cameras and flashlights are mailable with the following restrictions. Each cell must contain no more than 1.0 gram (g) of lithium content per cell. Each battery must contain no more than 2.0 g aggregate lithium content per battery. Additionally, each cell or battery must meet the requirements of each test in the UN Manual of Tests and Criteria, Part III, and subsection 38.3 as referenced in DOT’s hazardous materials regulation at 49 CFR 171.7. All primary lithium cells and batteries must be mailed within a firmly sealed package separated and cushioned to prevent short circuit, movement, or damage. Except for batteries installed in equipment, they must be in a strong outer package. All outer packages must have a complete delivery and return address.

Primary lithium cells and batteries are mailable as follows:

(a) Via surface transportation when the cells or batteries (not packed with or installed in equipment) are “in the originally sealed packaging.” They are forbidden aboard passenger aircraft. The outside of the package must be marked on the address side “Surface Mail Only, Primary Lithium Batteries—Forbidden for Transportation Aboard Passenger Aircraft.” The mailpiece must not exceed 5 pounds.

Marking for use on packages containing primary lithium (metal) cells and batteries:

SURFACE MAIL ONLY, PRIMARY LITHIUM BATTERIES – FORBIDDEN FOR TRANSPORT ABOARD PASSENGER AIRCRAFT

(b) Via surface or air transportation when the cells or batteries are properly packed with or properly installed in the equipment they operate and the mailpiece has no more than the number of batteries needed to operate the device. Cells or batteries properly installed in the device they operate must be protected from damage and short circuit, and the device must be equipped with an effective means of preventing accidental activation. The outside of the package must be marked on the address side “Package Contains Primary Lithium Batteries.” The mailpiece must not exceed 11 pounds.

Marking for use on packages containing primary lithium (metal) cells and batteries packed with or installed in equipment:

PACKAGE CONTAINS PRIMARY LITHIUM BATTERIES
Small consumer-type rechargeable lithium-ion cells and batteries like those used to power cell phones and laptop computers are mailable with the following restrictions. Each cell must contain no more than 1.5 g of equivalent lithium content per cell. Each battery must contain no more than 8.0 g aggregate quantity of equivalent lithium content per battery. Additionally, each cell or battery must meet the requirements of each test in the UN Manual of Tests and Criteria, Part III, and subsection 38.3 as referenced in the DOT’s hazardous materials regulation at 49 CFR 171.7. All secondary lithium-ion cells and batteries must be mailed in a firmly sealed package separated and cushioned to prevent short circuit, movement, or damage. Except for batteries installed in equipment, they must be in a strong outer package. All outer packages must have a complete delivery and return address.

Lithium ion cells and batteries are mailable as follows:

(a) Via surface or air transportation when individual cells or batteries are mailed or when properly packed with or properly installed in the equipment they operate. Cells or batteries properly installed in the device they operate must be protected from damage and short circuit, and the device must be equipped with an effective means of preventing accidental activation. The outside of the package must be marked on the address side “Package Contains Lithium-ion Batteries (no lithium metal).”

(b) The mailpiece must not contain more than 3 batteries.

Marking for use on packages containing lithium ion cells and batteries, including cells or batteries packed with or installed in equipment:

PACKAGE CONTAINS LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES (NO LITHIUM METAL)

Damaged or Recalled Batteries

Damaged or recalled batteries are prohibited from mailing unless approved by the manager, USPS Mailing Standards.

Battery-Powered Devices

Cells or batteries properly installed in equipment must be protected from damage and short circuit and equipment or devices containing cells or batteries must include an effective means of preventing accidental activation.

USPS LITHIUM BATTERY MAILABILITY CHART

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary lithium batteries (small non-rechargeable consumer-type batteries)</th>
<th>Surface transportation</th>
<th>Air transportation</th>
<th>Mailpiece weight limit</th>
<th>International APO/FPO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Without the equipment they operate (individual batteries).</td>
<td>Mailable ..................</td>
<td>Prohibited ...............</td>
<td>5 lb .......................</td>
<td>Prohibited.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Packed with equipment but not installed in equipment.</td>
<td>Mailable ..................</td>
<td>Mailable .................</td>
<td>11 lb ......................</td>
<td>Mailable.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 1: Each primary cell must not contain more than 1g lithium content
Note 2: Each primary battery must not contain more than 2 g lithium content
Note 3: Each secondary cell must not contain more than 1.5 g equivalent lithium content
Note 4: Each secondary battery must not contain more than 8 g equivalent lithium content
Note 5: For secondary batteries (lithium ion) there is a limit of 3 batteries per mailpiece

What are the UN “T” tests required by the UN regulatory scheme?

The UN Manual of Tests and Criteria, Fourth Revised Edition (2003), contain the UN T1-T8 Tests that are listed below. These tests only have to be performed once for each cell and battery of a given design, and must be completed prior to shipment. Lithium cells or batteries, which differ from a tested type by:

(a) A change of more than 0.1 g or 20% by mass, whichever is greater, to the cathode, to the anode, or to the electrolyte; or

(b) A change that would materially affect the test results,

shall be considered a new design type and shall be subjected to the required tests. Cells and batteries of identical design only have to be tested one time.

The following tests must be performed on all primary lithium (metal), rechargeable lithium ion and lithium ion polymer cells or batteries. See table below to determine quantities required for testing.

| Test T1: Altitude Simulation – Simulates air transport under low-pressure conditions. Store at 11.6 kPa or less for 6 hours at 20°C. |
| Test T2: Thermal Test – Assesses cell and battery seal integrity and internal electrical connections using thermal cycling to simulate rapid and extreme temperature changes. Perform 10 cycles between 75°C and –40°C, 6 hours per cycle with no more than 30 minutes between cycles, and then observe for 24 hours. |
| Test T3: Vibration – Simulates vibration during transport. Sinusoidal waveform with a logarithmic sweep between 7 Hz and 200 Hz and back to 7 Hz in 15 minutes. This cycle must be repeated 12 times for a total of 3 hours for each of three mutually perpendicular mounting positions of the cell or battery. |
| Test T4: Shock – Simulates possible impacts during transport. Half-sine shock of peak acceleration of 150g and pulse duration of 6 milliseconds. Each cell or battery must be subjected to 3 shocks in the positive direction and 3 shocks in the negative direction of three mutually perpendicular mounting positions for a total of 18 shocks. |
| Test T5: External Short Circuit – Simulates an external short circuit. After stabilizing at 55°C, apply an external resistance of less than 0.1 ohm for 1 hour and then observe for 6 hours. |
| Test T6: Impact – Simulates an impact. Place a 15.8 mm diameter bar across the sample and then drop a 9.1 kg mass from a height of 61 cm on to the bar, and then observe for 6 hours. |
| Test T7: Overcharge – Evaluates the ability of a rechargeable battery to withstand overcharge. Charge at twice the manufacturer’s recommended maximum continuous charge current for 24 hours, and then observe for 7 days. |
| Test T8: Forced Discharge – Evaluates the ability of a primary or a rechargeable cell to withstand forced discharge. Force discharge at an initial current equal to the maximum discharge current specified by the manufacturer, and then observe for 7 days. |
How many primary and rechargeable cells or batteries are required for testing, and which tests are performed for each?

Tests are performed sequentially on the same group of cells or batteries as shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T-Tests</th>
<th>Primary Cells</th>
<th>Primary Batteries</th>
<th>Rechargeable Cells</th>
<th>Rechargeable Batteries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T1 – T5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>10 or 20 (1)</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T7</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>50 or 60</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) 20 = prismatic cells

Where can I obtain a copy of the complete UN testing requirements?

You can obtain a copy of the test requirements portion of the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Manual of Tests and Criteria, from Ultralife’s web site at:

If my cells or batteries must be tested prior to shipping, how am I supposed to ship these products to a testing facility without violating the hazardous materials regulations?

Under 49 CFR 173.185(j) of the U.S. HMR, when not contained in equipment, cells and batteries shipped for testing purposes may be shipped only by highway and as Class 9 hazardous materials.

Has the testing deadline been extended for small cells and batteries?

Yes. The U.S. DOT lithium battery final rule issued on August 9, 2007 states that primary lithium (metal) cells with no more than 1 gram of lithium metal and batteries with no more than 2 grams of lithium metal, and lithium ion cells with no more than 1.5 grams and batteries with no more than 8 grams of equivalent lithium content do not require testing until October 1, 2009. In addition, the IMDG Code authorizes cells and batteries of the same size that were designed and manufactured prior to January 1, 2003 an exception from the UN T1-T8 testing requirements until December 31, 2013 ONLY if shipped by sea pursuant to the IMDG Code.

What does Class 9 mean?

Class 9 is one of nine classes of hazardous materials (dangerous goods) defined by the U.S. HMR and other transportation regulations. Class 9 defines the specification packaging, markings, labeling, and shipping paper requirements for “Miscellaneous” hazardous materials, which include primary lithium (metal) cells and batteries and lithium ion cells and batteries, among other materials. See Exhibit A for packaging, marking, labeling, and shipping paper requirements. Additional information on shipping hazardous materials can be found on the U.S. DOT’s PHMSA website at: http://hazmat.dot.gov or IATA’s web site at: www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/dangerous_goods/index.htm.

Are there any marking, packaging, and shipping paper requirements for excepted cells and batteries?

Yes. Except for batteries contained in equipment, packages containing more than 24 lithium or lithium ion cells or 12 lithium or lithium ion batteries must:

- Be marked to indicate that they contain lithium, lithium ion or lithium polymer cells or batteries and that special procedures should be followed in the event that the package is damaged (see recommended markings below);
- Be accompanied with a document indicating that packages contain lithium batteries and that special procedures should be followed in the event a package is damaged;
• Be capable of withstanding a 1.2 meter (3.9 ft.) drop test in any orientation without damage to cells or batteries contained in the package, without shifting of the contents that would allow short circuiting and without release of package contents; and

• Not exceed 30 kg (66.1 lbs.) gross mass. (Does not apply to batteries packed with equipment.)

**Recommended markings for use on packages containing more than 24 Excepted cells or 12 Excepted batteries:**

**Marking for use with excepted primary lithium cells or batteries:**

![CAUTION](image)

**LITHIUM BATTERIES INSIDE**

Do not damage or mishandle this package.
If package is damaged, batteries must be quarantined, inspected and repacked.
For emergency information, call CHEMTREC
1-800-424-9300 North America
1-703-527-3887 International

**Marking for use with excepted lithium ion and lithium ion polymer cells or batteries:**

![CAUTION](image)

**LITHIUM ION or LITHIUM POLYMER RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES INSIDE (No Lithium Metal)**

Do not damage or mishandle this package.
If package is damaged, batteries must be quarantined, inspected and repacked.
For emergency information, call CHEMTREC
1-800-424-9300 North America
1-703-527-3887 International

**Important note regarding use of CHEMTREC telephone numbers:** Companies that list CHEMTREC's emergency number on their packaging must be registered with CHEMTREC, and pay an annual fee. This includes the "shipper of record," who must also be registered in order to comply with Federal DOT regulations. This regulation (49CFR §172.604) states that the shipper of record must have a 24-hour emergency telephone number. Although the shipper may not be the manufacturer of the product, being able to reach the shipper to provide disposition instructions or other assistance is often required. Any technical information about the product can be obtained from the MSDS provided by the shipper, from CHEMTREC's database of technical information, or through CHEMTREC's contacts with the manufacturer.

**How do the regulations apply to Class 9 lithium or lithium ion cells and batteries packed with or contained in equipment?**

If cells or batteries must be shipped as Class 9 hazardous materials, equipment that is packed with or containing these same-type cells and batteries also must be shipped as Class 9 hazardous materials. There are different Class 9 markings and weight limitations that apply to packages containing batteries packed with or contained in equipment. For example, if shipping by air a fully-regulated Class 9 lithium battery contained in equipment, the package must be marked “Lithium batteries contained in equipment UN3091” and the net weight of the battery in the equipment cannot exceed 5 kg.
What regulations apply to the shipment of discharged lithium cells and batteries?

Except when shipped for disposal or recycling, the U.S. HMR prohibits the shipping of any cells and batteries with a liquid cathode containing sulfur dioxide, sulfuryl chloride or thionyl chloride if any cell has been discharged to the extent that the open circuit voltage is less than two volts, or is less than two-thirds of the voltage of the fully charged cell, whichever is less. These regulations only apply to the three liquid cathode chemistries noted. Discharged solid cathode cells and batteries, i.e., lithium manganese dioxide, are not subject to this prohibition and may be shipped by any mode of transportation regardless of voltage. Note, however, that shipments of discharged lithium cells and batteries of any chemistry must be in accordance with the appropriate shipping classification requirements, i.e., Excepted or Class 9, including packaging and labeling, as dictated by the lithium content of the cell and battery. It is Ultralife’s policy to ship discharged or depleted lithium cells and batteries by ground or ocean only.

Are there any training requirements for employees of companies that ship lithium cells and batteries?

Yes. The international and U.S. transportation regulations require employees involved in the packaging or shipment of Class 9 lithium or lithium ion cells and batteries to complete a hazardous materials training course. Employees must renew their certification training every three years in the U.S. and every two years under the international regulations. It is strongly recommended that employees also complete an “IATA training” course.

Can exemptions to the shipping regulations be requested?

Yes. Exemptions to the regulations for shipments of a specific cell or battery type may be requested from the countries of origin and destination, and cleared with the carrier. An “Approval” from the U.S. DOT serves a similar purpose and there are several provisions in the U.S. and international regulations that specify when a shipper of lithium batteries should secure an Approval from an “appropriate authority.” Sufficient product information should be provided in the request and include cell and battery lithium content, safety test data (if available), and the application in which the cells or batteries will be used. If granted, an Approval can take from 12 to 16 weeks to secure from the DOT. Approvals may be transferable, so if a cell or battery manufacturer obtains an Approval it may be transferred to their customer(s) who would receive and subsequently re-ship the product.

Do batteries that are manufactured by battery assembly companies have to be tested even if they use cells that have already been tested by the cell manufacturers?

Yes. Unless shipped with DOT approval, tests must be performed by the battery assembly company any time a battery design is created or changed in a manner that would materially affect the test results. Cells and batteries of identical design only have to be tested one time. Assembly company employees involved in the packaging or shipment of Class 9 batteries must complete a certified hazardous materials shipping training course.

Do the shipping regulations apply to any company that ships batteries, even if they are not the original cell or battery pack manufacturer?

All Ultralife OEM customers, distributors, battery assemblers, etc. are responsible for adhering to the packaging and marking requirements when re-shipping cells or batteries, and must ensure that the proper packaging and labeling is used when using packaging or labels other than the original materials in which the product was received. All Ultralife OEM customers, distributors and battery assemblers are responsible for obtaining new UN testing if they combine, reconfigure or assemble cells or batteries such that they differ from the original tested version (e.g., building cells into a battery pack). As previously described, new tests must be performed on a cell or battery if the cell or battery differ from the original tested type by:

(a) A change of more than 0.1 g or 20% by mass, whichever is greater, to the cathode, to the anode, or to the electrolyte; or
(b) A change that would materially affect the test results.
Are there any fines if shipping regulations are violated?
Yes! Each violation of the U.S. DOT HMR is subject to a fine of up to $50,000 (or up to $100,000 if DOT finds the violation results in "death, serious illness, or severe injury to any person or substantial destruction of property.") Fines are additive and multiple fines may be imposed for a single shipment of cells or batteries that may have a combination of testing, packaging, labeling or other violations.

Are there any carry-on provisions in the regulations that enable passengers to carry electronic devices containing lithium or lithium ion batteries or spare batteries on to airplanes?
Yes. There are provisions in the ICAO Technical Instructions that enable passengers to carry on consumer electronic devices (watches, calculators, cameras, cellular phones, laptop computers, PDA’s, games, camcorders, etc.) that utilize lithium batteries containing no more than 2 grams of lithium content or lithium ion batteries containing no more than 8 grams of equivalent lithium content. These provisions also allow an unlimited number of spare batteries that contain no more than these quantities (2 grams / 8 grams).

Passengers can also carry no more than two spare lithium ion batteries that contain between 8 and 25 grams of equivalent lithium content. Passengers are prohibited from carrying on lithium batteries containing more than 2 grams of lithium content and lithium ion batteries containing more than 25 grams of equivalent lithium content.

All spare batteries must be individually protected so as to prevent short circuits and placed in carry-on baggage only.

Where can I find information on the transportation regulations that apply to Ultralife’s lithium, lithium ion and polymer cells and batteries?
You can obtain a list of Ultralife’s cells and batteries, which includes lithium weights and transportation classifications, from Ultralife’s web site at:


Who can I contact if I have more questions about battery transportation?
Please contact Ultralife Batteries, Inc. for answers to questions regarding the transportation of Ultralife lithium, lithium ion or lithium polymer cells and batteries at: 800-332-5000 (U.S. & Canada); 315-332-7100; or 44-1235-542600 (Europe); or visit Ultralife’s web site at: www.ultralifebatteries.com.

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1. **PACKAGING** – Use only packaging that meets “Packing Group II” performance standards. Refer to the appropriate hazardous materials transportation regulations for the list of approved Packing Group II packaging and Performance - Oriented Packaging Standards.
   - Packages must not exceed 5 kg (gross weight) for passenger aircraft
   - Packages must not exceed 35 kg (gross weight) for cargo aircraft

2. **MARKING** – The following markings must be applied to the packaging:
   - Shipping name: Lithium batteries
   - Identification number: UN 3090
   - Shippers name and address
   - Name and address of company or individual receiving batteries (also known as the “consignee”)
   - UN packaging specifications

3. **LABELING** – The following Class 9 label must be used:

4. **SHIPPING PAPERS** – The following information must be included on shipping papers:
   - Proper shipping name, hazard class, identification number, and packing group in the following order (Example: UN3090, Lithium batteries, 9., II)
   - Number of and type of packages (Example: 12 fiberboard boxes)
   - Weight
   - Page number and total number of pages (Example: Page 1 of 2 Pages)
   - Emergency telephone number (Ultralife uses Chemtrec in the U.S.: 1-800-424-9300)
   - Shipper’s certification (Example: This is to certify that the above-named materials are properly classified, described, packaged, marked, and labeled, and are in proper condition for transportation (by air, if applicable) according to the applicable international and national governmental regulations.)
   - Signature of shipper

**NOTE:** If SHIPPING BY AIR, the following additional information is required for hazardous materials:
   - Air Waybill Number
   - Proper certification (I declare that all of the applicable air transport requirements have been met.)
   - Indication of whether “Passenger and Cargo Aircraft” or “Cargo Aircraft Only”
   - Airport of Departure
   - Airport of Destination
   - Shipment Type: Non-radioactive or radioactive
   - Place and date of signing of shippers certification

* An additional marking and/or “Cargo Aircraft Only” label (see below) are required if shipping primary lithium cells or batteries into, out of, or within the U.S. See pages 2 and 3 for more