

Federal Aviation Administration  
Civil Aviation Security  
Dangerous Goods Advisory Bulletin

**Information of Concern to Air Carriers**

**Subject: Transportation of Lithium Batteries**

**Number: DGAB-00-02**

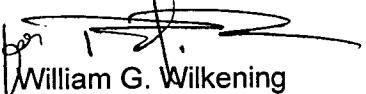
**Date: September 7, 2000**

**INFORMATION:** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is aware of an incident in which a fire occurred involving a shipment of primary lithium batteries. The actual incident occurred at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) on April 28, 1999, and involved two pallets of primary lithium batteries that caught fire and burned while undergoing ground movement and handling at the airport. The two pallets contained 120,000 non-rechargeable lithium primary batteries that were filled with small amounts of lithium metal. The actual cause of the fire was undetermined.

These batteries were shipped as excepted material under 49 CFR 173.185 of the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR), and Special Provision A45 of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Technical Instructions for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air. As a result of this regulatory exception, the shipment was excepted from all hazard communication requirements (i.e., marking, labeling, and shipping papers).

Immediately after the incident, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the FAA conducted an investigation. As a result of this subsequent investigation, the NTSB issued on November 16, 1999, five safety recommendations (A-99-80 through A-99-84) to the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) and the FAA.

In response to the NTSB safety recommendations, RSPA, on September 7, 2000, published the attached Advisory Notice in the Federal Register (FR 64 54336). The U.S. Department of Transportation also issued a related press release on September 7. The advisory notice issued by RSPA, is intended to inform persons of the incident and potential dangerous, recommend actions to offerors and transporters to ensure the safety of such shipments, provide information concerning the current requirements for transportation of lithium batteries, and to identify the actions taken by the Department of Transportation and the battery manufacturing and distribution industry to date.



William G. Wilkening  
Program Manager  
FAA Dangerous Goods and Cargo Security

Attachments