



Civil Aviation Department
Hong Kong, China

Recognizing Hidden DG – Awareness Enhancement

Dangerous Goods Office May 2011

An aerial photograph of an airport. On the left, a tall, cylindrical air traffic control tower stands prominently. The tower has a white base and a glass-enclosed upper section. To the right of the tower, a wide, paved runway stretches into the distance. In the background, a range of dark, forested mountains is visible under a bright, slightly hazy sky. Several aircraft are parked on the tarmac in the middle ground. The overall scene is a clear, wide-angle shot of an airport facility.

1 - DG Labels

DG Labels

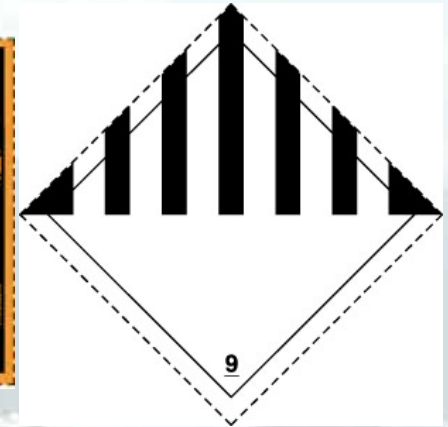


Air Waybill

“NOT RESTRICTED”

No. of Pieces RCP	Gross Weight	kg lb	Rate Class		Chargeable Weight	Rate / Charge		Total
			Commodity Item No.					
35	741.0	K Q			741.0	K		
**LITHIUM BATTERIES NOT RESTRICTED AS PER IATA DGR PI968 OF IATA DGR 51ST EDITION OF IATA-DGR-2010"								

Hazard Label, Handling Label



Points to Consider

- **Did the Shipper have DG training?**
- **Did the acceptance or handling personnel see the Hazard label and Handling Label on the packages?**
- **Did the acceptance personnel seek confirmation from the Shipper?**
- **How could the operating procedure of the Operator or Agent prevent this kind of occurrence?**
- **How can DG Awareness training help?**

An aerial photograph of an airport. On the left side, there is a tall, cylindrical air traffic control tower with a glass-enclosed observation deck at the top. The tower is supported by a concrete base. To the right of the tower, a wide, paved runway or taxiway stretches across the middle of the frame. In the background, there are several large, hazy mountains under a sky with scattered clouds. The overall scene is a wide-angle view of the airport's infrastructure.

2 – Cargo Description

“Trimmer”



A Lawn Mower for grass cutting



“Luzes”



Equipment Containing Lithium Metal Cell, Activated



Points to Consider

- **Machinery or Internal Combustion Engine may contain fuel in the fuel tank**
- **Many electronic products may contain Lithium Batteries installed inside the equipment**
- **Cargo acceptance personnel should seek confirmation from the Shippers**

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3 – False Document

Goods Description

“Solar Equipment”



Supporting Documents

Material Safety Data Sheet

Section 1 - Chemical Product and Company Identification

Product Name: Li battery

Sample Code:

Manufacture: [REDACTED] Trading Ltd

Address: [REDACTED]

Post Code: /

Tel: [REDACTED]

Emergency Telephone: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Email:

Section 2 - Composition/Information on Ingredient

Chemical Name	Chemical Formula or Abbreviation	CAS No.	In % by Weight
Lithium Cobalt Oxide	LiCoO ₂	12190-79-3	35
Graphite	C	7440-44-0	17
Aluminum	Al	7429-90-5	24
Copper	Cu	7440-50-8	8

Points to Consider

- **Is a trading company which is not a Manufacturer of Lithium Batteries capable of issuing a MSDS for Lithium Batteries?**
- **Does the Manufacturer information on the MSDS appeared to have been modified or tempered with?**

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4 - Misdeclared DG

Large Lithium Batteries



“Battery, 4 Pkgs, 83.0 Kg”

SHIPPER		SHIPMENT INFORMATION		
Tax ID/VAT No.:		Pkgs	Act Wt	Dim Wt
Contact:		4	83.0	0.0
Phone:			Kg	Kg
HONG KONG		Description of Goods:		
HK		BATTERY		
SHIP TO		Declared Value for Carriage:		
Tax ID/VAT No.:		Additional Handling:		
Contact:		Residential:		
Phone:		Reference 1:		
GERMANY		Reference 2:		

Exposed Battery Terminals



Short-circuit and Resulting Damage



Can this occurrence be prevented?



Points to Consider

- **Is the Description for the goods sufficient?**
- **Did the acceptance personnel seek confirmation from the shipper?**
- **What is the allowed maximum weight per package of “Battery”?**
- **Could this package have been discovered and stopped by the acceptance process?**

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5 - Undeclared DG

Hidden DG in OBC Consignment



Overweight, No Cushioning, Weak Outer Packaging



Points to Consider

- **Did the Shipper have a legitimate business?**
- **Was there documentation for the goods?**
- **Was the quality of the packaging acceptable?**
- **Forwarders can help prevent hidden DG in general cargo by performing random checks**
- **Operators and handling agents should check the transport documents to see whether there is anomaly under the cargo description**
- **Operators and handling agents should report the case to the C&ED in case the goods are found to be unmanifested**

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Conclusions

To prevent hidden DG -

- 1. Cargo acceptance staff must be adequately trained**
- 2. During the acceptance process, try to ascertain that the shipper is the party who really knows the contents of the shipment**
- 3. Seek confirmation from shipper about the contents if the cargo description looks suspicious e.g. electronic parts, mobile phone accessories, samples etc.**

To prevent hidden DG -

- 4. Encourage staff to report discrepancies and suspected hidden DG cases**
- 5. Keep a record of all rejected cargo involving DG**
- 6. Disseminate the information to all parties concerned including cargo sales staff after any occurrences or incidents to enhance awareness**