



International Civil Aviation Organization

ELECTRONIC BULLETIN

For information only

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TRANSPORT OF LITHIUM BATTERIES AS CARGO BY AIR

1. This is to advise Member States of ICAO of concerns regarding lithium battery test results from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) William J. Hughes Technical Center which suggest a fire involving high-density packages of lithium ion batteries may exceed the capability of aircraft cargo fire protection systems. These concerns have also been raised by the International Coordinating Council of Aerospace Industries Associations (ICCAIA) and the International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA). Continued discussion of this issue is anticipated at the twenty-fifth meeting of the Dangerous Goods Panel (DGP/25, Montreal, 19 to 30 October 2015) when a proposal to prohibit the transport of high-density packages of lithium ion batteries as cargo will be considered.

2. In the interim, two major airframe manufacturers (Airbus SAS and the Boeing Company) have issued information to operators on the subject. Both manufacturers support prohibiting the carriage of high-density packages of lithium ion batteries on passenger aircraft until such time as safer methods of transport are implemented. They recommend that operators who choose to carry lithium batteries by air conduct a safety risk assessment. The airframe manufacturers also provide some guidance to operators on considerations that should be taken into account in conducting such an assessment.

3. A third international multidisciplinary lithium battery transport coordination meeting was held (Montréal, 28 to 30 July 2015) to discuss performance standards relating to the transport of lithium batteries by air. The meeting outlined high-level Standards that were needed and recommended that ICAO task a standard-setting body with developing more detailed provisions. The report of the meeting is available on <http://www.icao.int/safety/DangerousGoods/Pages/Multidisciplinary.aspx>.

4. States are encouraged to ensure their operators perform effective safety risk assessments before choosing to transport lithium batteries as cargo by air until such time as safer methods of transport are implemented.

5. For further information, you are invited to contact ICAO (Dr. Katherine Rooney, Chief, Cargo Safety Section, Air Navigation Bureau, by email at css@icao.int).

Issued under the authority of the Secretary General