



香港特別行政區政府  
民航處  
Civil Aviation Department  
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

## **Dangerous Goods Advisory Circular DGAC 3/2024**

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### **Undeclared / Mis-declared Lithium Batteries**

As 2024 is soon coming to a close, the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) acknowledges and thanks the air cargo industry for its continued effort in contributing to the notable recovery in air cargo traffic. However, this positive progress has been accompanied by an increase in dangerous goods occurrences, particularly those involving undeclared / mis-declared lithium batteries.

2. Air cargo business cannot thrive without aviation safety. In light of this, the CAD once again appeals to the air cargo industry stakeholders, including freight forwarders, warehouse personnel, cargo terminal operators, and airlines to remain vigilant and exercise caution when accepting and handling consignments. It is essential for all entities involved to ensure that consignments with lithium battery are identified, properly classified, packed, marked, labelled and declared for air transport in accordance with the Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air published by the International Civil Aviation Organization.

#### Case sharing

3. To raise awareness among all stakeholders and personnel, the CAD has recollected several dangerous goods occurrences from the year and summarized them in [Attachment I](#) of this circular. The air cargo industry is encouraged to share this information with their employees and business partners and use it for case study purpose, and note the observations and recommended practices to guard against similar occurrences.

#### Reminder to industry

4. The carriage of non-compliant, undeclared or mis-declared lithium battery consignments poses potential threats to aviation safety with serious consequences. Therefore, the CAD would like to reiterate the importance of vigilance among cargo operation and acceptance personnel of airlines, handling agents and freight forwarders during the cargo acceptance process. Every entity in the chain serves as

a line of defense to protect aviation safety. The following principles should be adhered to:

- i. Implement appropriate safety risk management measures such as intelligence exchange with industry partners for detecting non-compliance of consignments and stopping their flow at early stages in the air cargo supply chain, with the aim of preventing them from loading onto aircraft.
- ii. Maintain strong and coherent communication between personnel handling air cargo transport documentation and those physically processing and accepting cargo, regardless of whether these functions are subcontracted. Effective and efficient methods of exchanging consignment information should be established, and only the most up-to-date and accurate information should be relied upon when critical tasks are being performed for an air cargo consignment.
- iii. In case of doubt, seek documented clarification from the shippers regarding the actual contents of the consignments. Appropriate checks should be conducted on such consignments with documented evidence to demonstrate due diligence has been exercised by all parties involved. Never compromise safety of an air cargo consignment due to time pressure from a shipper.

#### Contravention of Dangerous Goods (Consignment by Air) (Safety) Regulations

5. The consignment of undeclared or mis-declared dangerous goods constitutes a contravention of Cap. 384A of the Laws of Hong Kong, and the shipper and/or freight forwarder involved are liable for prosecution. On conviction, the shipper and/or the freight forwarder may be subject to a fine of \$250,000 and imprisonment for up to 2 years.

6. Shippers and freight forwarders involved in dangerous goods occurrences may also be subject to increased regulatory scrutiny and additional inspection requirements imposed by the CAD. A corrective action plan must be submitted to demonstrate the actions taken, along with relevant supporting evidence, to prevent recurrence to the satisfaction of the CAD.

7. Should there be any queries regarding this circular, please contact the Dangerous Goods Office at 2910 6856 or 2910 6857.

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An electronic version of this circular can be downloaded at  
<http://www.cad.gov.hk/english/DGAC.html>