



Nickel-Metal Hydride Batteries

Guidance on the air transport of UN 3496, Batteries, nickel-metal hydride

Revised for the 2025 Regulations

Introduction

This guidance document is provided by IATA to address the difficulties experienced by parties shipping and/or accepting UN 3496, **Batteries, nickel metal hydride** and equipment containing nickel-metal hydride batteries by air transport.

Background

The entry, UN 3496, **Batteries, nickel-metal hydride** was brought into the 55th edition of the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations (DGR) to ensure the list of dangerous goods is "complete" and aligned to the list of UN numbers in the UN Model Regulations. UN 3496 is only regulated in international maritime transport.

Transport by Air

Nickel-metal hydride batteries may be shipped by air transport. The batteries are considered "Not Restricted" provided that the shipper complies with the requirements of Special Provision A199. This may involve the freight forwarder correctly indicating the required text on the air waybill, when an air waybill is used, as shown in Figure 1. The UN Number "UN 3496" is not a UN Number used in air transport and should not be used in association with the description of the goods.

The text in Special Provision A199 makes it clear that the entry is only regulated in sea transport.

A199 *The UN number UN 3496 is only applicable in sea transport. Nickel-metal hydride batteries or nickel-metal hydride battery-powered devices, equipment or vehicles are not subject to these Regulations provided they are prepared for transport so as to prevent:*

(a) a short circuit (e.g. in the case of batteries, by the effective insulation of exposed terminals; or, in the case of equipment, by disconnection of the battery and protection of exposed terminals); and

(b) unintentional activation.



Devices such as radio frequency identification (RFID) tags, watches and temperature loggers, which are not capable of generating a dangerous evolution of heat, may be transported when intentionally active.

When active, these devices must meet defined standards for electromagnetic radiation to ensure that the operation of the device does not interfere with aircraft systems. The devices must not be capable of emitting disturbing signals (such as buzzing alarms, strobe lights, etc.) during transport.

The words "Not Restricted" and the Special Provision number must be included in the description of the substance on the Air Waybill as required by 8.2.6, when an Air Waybill is issued.

Airport of Destination		Requested Flight/Date		Amount of Insurance		INSURANCE – If carrier offers insurance, and such insurance is requested in accordance with the conditions thereof, indicate amount to be insured in figures in box marked "Amount of Insurance".	
Handling Information						SCI	
No. of Pieces RCP	Gross Weight	kg lb	Rate Class Commodity Item No.	Chargeable Weight	Rate / Charge	Total	Nature and Quantity of Goods (incl. Dimensions or Volume)
							Nickel-metal hydride batteries "Not Restricted" as per Special Provision A199

Figure 1 - Consignment Containing Nickel-Metal Hydride Batteries Not restricted as per Special Provision A199

You can contact the IATA Dangerous Goods Support team if you have questions or concerns that may not have been addressed in this document at: dangood@iata.org.