



Nickel Metal Hydride Batteries

Guidance on the air transport of Batteries, nickel-metal hydride UN3496

IATA has been contacted by various parties experiencing difficulties shipping and accepting Batteries, nickel metal hydride (UN 3496) and equipment containing them by air transport. The text in the 57th edition of the DGR has been adapted to make the shipping requirements clearer through Special Provision A199.

BACKGROUND:

UN 3496 was brought into the 55th edition of the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations (DGR) to ensure the list of dangerous goods is "complete" and generally aligned with the UN Model Regulations. This UN Number is only used in sea transport.

TRANSPORT BY AIR:

These batteries may be shipped by air transport. The batteries are considered not restricted once the shipper complies with Special Provision A199. This may involve the freight forwarder correctly indicating the required text on the air waybill, when an air waybill is used. 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.

We understand there is some confusion with the mention of "forbidden" against the limited quantity entry for UN 3496, but the special provision makes clear that the entry is only used in sea transport.

SPECIAL PROVISION 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 having the potential of a dangerous evolution of heat 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.

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.

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.