



How to ship lithium batteries

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Almost 200,000 pounds of lithium batteries stored in an old paper mill went up in flames due to improper storage. This released toxic smoke and contaminants into the local air and water, displacing thousands of residents in local homes and businesses.

Hazardous conditions like these are why batteries have earned their dangerous goods classification. When damaged or improperly stored, they can release extreme levels of heat, leading to situations like the Morris fire.

This is why extensive requirements are crucial when it comes to the shipping and handling of lithium batteries, particularly lithium ion. Due to their rechargeable design, they can provide high levels of power and generate great levels of heat if damaged.

All of these factors differ depending on the specifics involved with the battery shipment, the carrier being used, and the mode of transportation. They also account for how the container must be documented, packaged, and labeled in order to stay within compliance.

There are several different documents associated with transporting lithium batteries. Which ones you will need to include with your packaging will depend on your carrier and mode of transportation.

Hazardous materials transported by air incorporate standards put in place by the IATA (International Air Transport Association) Dangerous Goods Regulations. These guidelines were written by experts to present the requirements for shipping dangerous goods in a way that is easy for users to interpret.

Many shipments to, from, or passing through the US require a DGD as a key form for sending dangerous goods. It must be completed correctly and attached to shipments containing the following information:

Different options must be checked depending on the configuration of the batteries or cells, if applicable. This means if they are being shipped as stand alone, packed with equipment, or contained in equipment.

A waybill is a document that contains information about the contents of a shipment. This can include its point of origin, the intended route, and its final destination. It acts as a contract of carriage between the shipper and carrier through air or sea. Because of this, it can also serve as a receipt for the shipper (or consignor).

It contains all of the information authorities need to know about what the package contains, where it's from, where it's headed, and the route it will take to get there. A unique tracking number is included to allow senders to track the package in real time and receive notifications via email and mobile phone.



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Waybills are a type of Bill of Lading, however, they are non-negotiable contracts. Shipment details help provide an accurate, secure, and prompt delivery while maintaining compliance and safety regulations.

These batteries hold a charge that can cause them to short circuit, overheat or catch fire if handled incorrectly. Having the proper packaging prevents accidental activation of these batteries. This ensures safety throughout the entire handling and shipping processes.

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