

IMDG Code Shipping Instructions for OCEAN Transportation **UN3480, LITHIUM ION BATTERIES, 9** (Special Provision 188 → Small, exempted cells & batteries)

ONLY TRAINED HAZMAT EMPLOYEES MAY SHIP LITHIUM BATTERIES USING THIS GUIDE.

Some batteries are regulated when shipped or offered for transportation. If the battery is restricted, then all applicable hazardous materials regulations must be met. This guide provides information to assist you in how to ship the battery by vessel.



How can I tell if the battery is regulated?

Batteries normally have the size listed directly on the battery case which will help you identify whether or not it can be shipped without special packaging and package marking; in other words, shipped as non-restricted in transportation.



These instructions have been specifically prepared for the shipment of **lithium ion batteries** (≤ 100 Wh) prepared in accordance with the provisions of the exemption found in special provision 188 of the IMDG Code, Amendment 42-24 (voluntary application 01/01/2025; mandatory 01/01/2026).

DO NOT USE THESE SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS FOR OTHER BATTERY TYPES.

All employees are responsible for compliance with applicable domestic and international dangerous goods transport regulations. All employees must be dangerous goods trained prior to using this shipping template. All information in this shipping template is accurate through the date of revision and must be validated against the regulations yearly and updated as regulations change.



DG Shipping Guide #24 – IMDG
LITHIUM ION BATTERIES
(Exempted per Special Provision 188)

Revision Date: 10/24/2025

Page 2 of 5

[Guide #24]

DESCRIPTION

Items

(Identify and insert the description of items that may be shipped utilizing this template in this section.)

SHIPPING BY OCEAN VESSEL (IMDG Code)

Shipping Location

Transport by Ocean Vessel

Shipping Company

(Identify in this section the carriers used and carrier requirements)
(e.g., Vessel Operators, such as Hapag Lloyd, Maersk, APL, China Shipping, etc.)

NOTE

Damaged, defective or recalled cells or batteries, that have the potential of producing a dangerous evolution of heat, fire, or short circuit (including those being returned to the manufacturer for safety reasons) and are offered for vessel transport must be prepared in accordance with the provisions detailed in packing instruction P908 of the IMDG Code.

Batteries meant for disposal or recycling must be prepared in accordance with the provisions in packing instruction P909 of the IMDG Code.

CLASSIFICATION

UN Number & Proper Shipping Name

UN3480, LITHIUM ION BATTERIES

Battery Testing Data

LITHIUM ION CELLS OR BATTERIES MUST MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF EACH TEST IN THE *UN Manual of Tests and Criteria, Part III, subsection 38.3.*

Battery Test Summary

A battery test summary complying with the requirements of the UN Manual of Tests and Criteria, Part III, Subsection 38.3, Paragraph 38.3.3.5 is required to prove all cells/batteries have been properly tested.

The battery test summary is not a transport document and is not required to be provided as a transport document. However, some carriers may request a copy be provided.

Site Testing Data

(Insert the location of battery testing documentation and/or attach to the shipping instructions)

Special Provisions

188, 230, 310, 348, 376, 377, 384, 387

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LITHIUM ION BATTERIES
(Exempted per Special Provision 188)

Revision Date: 10/24/2025

Page 3 of 5

[Guide #24]

PACKAGING

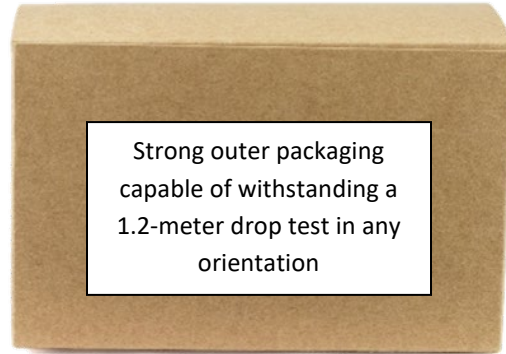
Packing Instruction	Special Provision 188
Watt-hour Rating	Lithium ion cell ≤ 20 Wh Lithium ion battery ≤ 100 Wh
Limit per package	Gross mass of the package cannot exceed 30 kg.
Short Circuit Prevention	<i>The site must identify and insert information on how this will be done for applicable shipments.</i> Cells or batteries separated or packaged in a manner to prevent short circuits (e.g., placing a single battery in a plastic bag before putting in outer packaging).
	THE CELLS OR BATTERIES MUST INCORPORATE A SAFETY VENTING DEVICE OR BE DESIGNED NOT TO RUPTURE UNDER THE NORMAL CONDITIONS OF TRANSPORT. Each battery containing cells or a series of cells connected in parallel must be equipped with an effective means, as necessary, to prevent dangerous reverse current flow (e.g., diodes, fuses).
Packaging	LITHIUM CELLS AND BATTERIES MUST BE PACKED IN STRONG OUTER PACKAGING. Each lithium cell and battery must be packed in a non-metallic inner packaging that completely encloses it and separates it from contact with equipment, other devices or conductive materials in the outer packaging. The package must be capable of withstanding a 1.2-meter drop test in any orientation without damage to cells or batteries contained in the package, without shifting of the contents that would allow short circuiting, and without release of package contents.
General Provisions	Must comply with the general provisions of 4.1.1.1, 4.1.1.2 and 4.1.1.5, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good quality packaging to withstand the shocks and loading normally encountered during transport.• Constructed and closed to prevent loss of contents.• Closed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.• No dangerous goods residue on the outside.• Cushioning material• Parts of packaging which are in direct contact with DG will not react or cause a dangerous effect during the normal conditions of transport• Inner packagings must be packed in outer packaging to prevent breakage, puncture or leakage of contents

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PACKAGING

Type of Packaging

(Insert the type of packagings to be used. In addition, insert closure instructions or location of the closure instructions to be used.)



MARKING / LABELLING

Marking & Labelling

Mark the package with the battery mark. If not already displayed, add UN3480 to the mark.

Note: A telephone number may remain on the mark through December 31, 2026, but is no longer required.



Example of completed package for transportation by vessel:





**DG Shipping Guide #24 – IMDG
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Revision Date: 10/24/2025

Page 5 of 5

[Guide #24]

DOCUMENTATION

Document Type

Dangerous goods transport document NOT required.

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Training Requirements

Employees must be informed of the requirements of this shipping guide before offering small lithium batteries for transport.

It is recommended that employees receive hazardous material general awareness training as well prior to preparing and offering lithium batteries for transport.

STORAGE

**Storage Location &
Special Considerations**

(Insert storage requirements or special considerations)

REFERENCES

IMDG Code

Amendment 42-24
(Voluntary use 01/01/2025; Mandatory use 01/01/2026)

Part 1

1.3 – Training Requirements
1.4 – Security Provisions

Part 2

2.9.4 – Lithium batteries

Part 3

3.3 – Special Provisions (SP 188)

Part 5

5.2 – Marking and Labeling
5.4 – Documentation

Part 6

6.1 – Provisions for the construction and testing of packagings

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