



**DG Shipping Guide #25 – IMDG
LITHIUM ION BATTERIES CONTAINED
IN EQUIPMENT
(Exempted per Special Provision 188)**

Revision Date: 10/24/2025

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**IMDG Code Shipping Instructions for OCEAN Transportation
UN3481, LITHIUM ION BATTERIES CONTAINED IN EQUIPMENT, 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 contained in equipment** 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 training 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.



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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

UN3481, LITHIUM ION BATTERIES CONTAINED IN EQUIPMENT

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.

Battery test summary NOT required for button cells installed in equipment.

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, 360, 376, 377, 384, 387, 390

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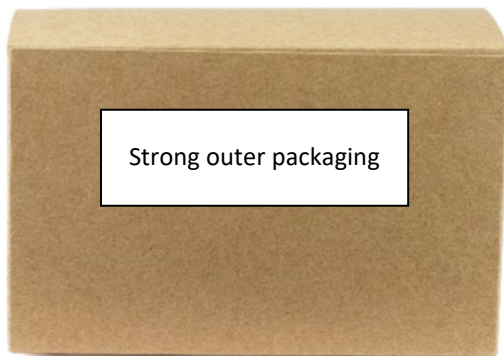
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PACKAGING

Packing Instruction	Special Provision 188
Watt-hour Rating	Lithium ion cell ≤ 20 Wh Lithium ion battery ≤ 100 Wh
Short Circuit Prevention	<p><i>The site must identify and insert information on how this will be done for applicable shipments.</i></p> <p>Secure cells or batteries in the equipment to ensure they do not separate from the equipment during transport. Protect cells and batteries against short circuits (e.g., using tape or other means to secure cell or battery).</p> <p>THE CELLS OR BATTERIES MUST INCORPORATE A SAFETY VENTING DEVICE OR BE DESIGNED NOT TO RUPTURE UNDER THE NORMAL CONDITIONS OF TRANSPORT.</p> <p>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).</p>
Packaging	<p>EQUIPMENT CONTAINING LITHIUM CELLS AND BATTERIES MUST BE PACKED IN STRONG OUTER PACKAGING.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The equipment must be secured within the outer packaging and be packed to prevent movement, short circuits, and accidental operation during transport.• Spare batteries are not permitted to be packed with equipment using this guide (<i>see applicable guide for shipping lithium ion batteries packed with equipment</i>).
Type of Packaging	<p><i>(Insert the type of packagings to be used. In addition, insert closure instructions or the location of the closure instructions to be used.)</i></p>

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PACKAGING



MARKING / LABELLING

Marking & Labelling

Mark the package with the battery mark. If not already displayed, add [UN3481](#).

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



Note

The mark is NOT required when a package contains button cell batteries installed in equipment (including circuit boards), or no more than four (4) lithium cells / two (2) lithium batteries contained in equipment, and there are not more than two packages in the consignment.

Example of completed package for transportation by vessel:





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DOCUMENTATION

Document Type	Dangerous goods transport document NOT required.
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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.
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STORAGE

Storage Location & Special Considerations	<i>(Insert storage requirements or special considerations)</i>
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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 Labelling 5.4 – Documentation
Part 6	6.1 Provisions for the construction and testing of packagings

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