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Since 2008

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Lithium Batteries are considered a **hazardous material**.

Do you need to ship a laptop, cell phone, or other device that contains a lithium battery?



Most consumer electronics, such as laptops and cell phones contain smaller batteries that **do not exceed 100 Wh for lithium ion batteries or 2g for lithium metal batteries**. These smaller batteries are easy to ship if you follow these very important guidelines. Make sure to check the documentation from the manufacturer or the battery markings to confirm the size of the battery! If you suspect that a battery or device might be so damaged as to cause a safety concern, do not ship the battery.

Packaging: Batteries and devices must always be packaged in a manner to protect against:

- short circuits,
- shifting within the package/box, and
- accidental activation of the device.

The best option is to keep the batteries and devices in the original, manufacturer-sealed packaging whenever possible. If the batteries are not sealed in the original manufacturer's packaging, the batteries must be placed in a non-metallic inner packaging that completely encloses the batteries and separates them from contact with any other device or conductive material. The batteries may also be installed in the device they power. Such devices must be secured against shifting within the packaging, and packed to prevent accidental activation during transportation.

The outer packaging that contains the batteries and devices should be rigid and strong to protect the battery from damage and to prevent the release of the package contents. In general, padded envelopes and paper mailers do not provide this protection and you should not use them as an outside package.

Marking: Although it is not always required when batteries are shipped while installed in the devices they power, generally the package should be marked with the lithium battery handling marking. The marking must include the applicable UN ID number (i.e., UN3480, UN3481, UN3090, UN3091) and a telephone number that can be used to obtain additional information about the shipment.

This document is not agency guidance. Contact the **Hazardous Materials Information Center** by telephone at **1-800-467-4922** or by e-mail at infocntr@dot.gov for additional compliance assistance. For additional information, see PHMSA's website and the Hazardous Materials Regulations.

