



The International Air Cargo Association

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TIACA POSITION PAPER ON LITHIUM BATTERIES September 2016

Lithium batteries are an omnipresent and growing power source in today's world, running countless electronic devices. Lithium batteries are shipped via all transportation modes, and millions have been shipped safely by air, as cargo, mail and baggage. Due to concerns about the thermal properties of lithium batteries under certain conditions, ICAO recently issued new requirements relating to the air transportation of lithium batteries. ICAO is also pursuing several ongoing work streams related to lithium batteries, to ensure that regulations stay current with commercial and operational developments.

Given the significance and complexity of the many issues relating to air shipments of lithium batteries as cargo, mail and baggage, TIACA is issuing this position paper to advise the views of our membership, which includes all sectors of the air cargo industry. TIACA will urge all appropriate regulators to abide by the following principles when considering issues related to air transportation of lithium batteries:

1. TIACA believes that any regulations on air transportation of lithium batteries should be global in nature, so that our members, who operate in every country and territory in the world, can comply with a common standard, rather than having to adjust their operations to differing standards across the world – which would produce widespread operational inefficiencies and confusion, to the detriment of safety. ICAO provides the appropriate forum for bringing all key stakeholders together to discuss the many complexities relating to lithium batteries. TIACA will continue to urge our members and industry overall to comply with ICAO standards, including the new standards that took effect April 1, 2016. These standards include a temporary prohibition of bulk lithium ion batteries shipped as cargo on passenger aircraft, and a requirement that any cargo shipments of these batteries be at a state-of-charge no greater than 30%.
2. TIACA recognizes that ICAO is the appropriate forum for reaching consensus on international civil aviation Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and policies in support of a safe, efficient, secure, economically sustainable and environmentally responsible civil aviation sector. TIACA encourages ICAO to further clarify SARPs and policy relating to the air transport of lithium batteries, with the goal of reducing complexity, enhancing understanding of existing requirements by state regulators as well as industry, and compliance with them. ICAO should continue to encourage affected regulators to partner with industry to clarify and simplify the requirements, where appropriate, in order to facilitate a better understanding by all parties in lithium battery supply chains.
3. Building on #2 above, it is critical to improve awareness of lithium battery regulations throughout the air cargo supply chain and the general public. Once again, regulators should work to develop and sustain an awareness campaign with appropriate industry stakeholder involvement.

4. There must be robust compliance with and enforcement of regulations relating to the manufacture, shipment and air transportation of lithium batteries as cargo, mail and baggage. Too often manufacturers and shippers in certain regions of the world fail to properly prepare their lithium battery shipments, with little consequence. Regulators should work with their counterparts in other countries to improve oversight, particularly those countries with significant lithium battery exports, and should assist in training to upgrade enforcement efforts. Industry stakeholders must also seek to ensure compliance and to reduce the incidence of undeclared and mis-declared (intentional or unintentional) shipments.
5. TIACA supports taking the necessary mitigating steps to address the reasons for ICAO's temporary prohibition on lithium battery shipments on passenger aircraft. In particular, we support:
 - a. Development of a performance-based packaging standard that is appropriately balanced with the commercial realities of shipping lithium batteries by air (this process is currently underway at ICAO).
 - b. All-cargo operators conducting a thorough Safety Risk Assessment (SRA) of their operations, to identify the risks of transporting lithium batteries as well as strategies for mitigating those risks, and to determine whether they can safely transport these items. SRAs should be updated appropriately.

For our part, TIACA stands ready to leverage its position in the air cargo and lithium battery supply chains to:

1. Partner with ICAO and national regulators to further simplify applicable requirements.
2. Promote understanding of and compliance with lithium battery air transport requirements throughout the supply chain. As part of this effort, we will establish a Resource Page on our website with relevant information, hyperlinks, and updates.
3. Support industry and regulator efforts to address the reasons for ICAO's temporary prohibition on lithium battery shipments by passenger aircraft.

ABOUT TIACA

TIACA is a global not-for-profit trade association representing all the major segments of the air cargo and air logistics industry – combination and all-cargo airlines, forwarders, airports, ground handlers, road carriers, customs brokers, logistics companies, shippers, IT companies, aircraft and equipment manufacturers, trade press, and educational institutions. TIACA's objectives include:

- facilitating and monitoring the implementation of e-commerce practices throughout the air cargo supply chain;
- supporting security measures that are effective, workable, and affordable, and that create minimal disruption to the vital flow of air cargo, which essentially relies on speed;
- developing and promoting strategies and principles that address legitimate public concerns for sound environmental policies;
- reforming and modernizing customs practices and raising industry performance standards;
- increasing market access by the elimination or reduction of constraints imposed on air cargo by its current dependence on bilateral traffic rights agreements; and
- representing the interests of the air cargo industry before relevant regulatory bodies, at the national and multinational levels.

To accomplish its mission, TIACA engages in activities that seek to improve industry cooperation, promote innovation, share knowledge, enhance quality and efficiency, and promote education. TIACA aims to inform both the public and its membership about the role and importance of air cargo, industry developments and technical trends.

TIACA engages with relevant authorities, and publishes position papers on industry issues and the TIACA Times newsletter. The TIACA website is a valuable industry resource which contains a fully searchable database of information on industry issues. TIACA has developed research relationships with several universities through joint projects and student scholarship programs. For more information, see the TIACA website at www.tiaca.org.