

## **Best Practice: Export CLG/019**

**Title:** Best practice for Regulated Agent (RA) and Regulated Air Cargo Screening Facilities (RF) screening to include screening of lithium batteries

**Background:** The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) mandates 100% air cargo screening as from 1 July 2021. Since late 2019, Hong Kong Civil Aviation Department (CAD) has developed a new Regulated Air Cargo Screening Facilities (RF) scheme that enabling and regulating air cargo screening in off-airport locations in HK.

**Recommendation for RF to also screen for undeclared or misdeclare lithium battery shipments.**

Under the new RF scheme, each individual pieces require to be screened in the RF locations for security items such as explosives, The screening could also facilitate Regulated Agents (RA) and its appointed handler, i.e. RF, to stop/reject any lithium battery shipment being accepted undeclared or without proper documentation. This additional screening at RF of lithium battery related items could help to avoid last minute interception at CTO, where shipments might be returned. With the adoption of such practice by RA and RF, airlines that require CTO screening for the purpose of intercepting potential hidden lithium battery might opt to accept screening at RF. In the recent survey by CLG, it is encouraging that most responded RF indicated that they are already adopting the practice to screen out hidden lithium battery.

Below RF handling procedure is developed based on the airline operators' and cargo terminal operators' experience in HKIA and the replies from RFs to CLG survey with the aim to recommend the handling procedure for RA and their appointed RF for screening lithium battery.

**The RF handling procedure:** Upon cargo tendering and before acceptance, consignment of cargo shall be accompanied by shipping documents, including Master Air Waybill (where applicable), House Air Waybill / Shipper's Letter of Instruction and or other types of shipping documents whichever is available.

The shipping documents shall contain at least the following information – nature / content of the consignment; and - quantity of the consignment (including

weight, number of packages, dimension / volume). Hence if any lithium shipment is contained in the consignment, it should be declared in advance with code of:

- EBI (Lithium ion batteries Section II of PI965, Class 9 UN3480)
- EBM (Lithium metal batteries Section II of PI968, Class 9 UN3090)
- RBI (Lithium ion batteries Section IA & IB of PI965, Class 9 UN3480)
- RBM (Lithium metal batteries Section IA & IB of PI968, Class 9 UN3090)
- ELI (Lithium ion batteries packed with equipment Section II of PI966 & Lithium ion batteries contained in equipment Section II of PI967, Class 9 UN3481)
- ELM (Lithium metal batteries packed with equipment Section II of PI969 & Lithium metal batteries contained in equipment Section II of PI970, Class 9 UN3091)
- RLI (Lithium ion batteries packed with equipment Section I of PI966 & Lithium ion batteries contained in equipment Section I of PI967, Class 9 UN3481)
- RLM (Lithium metal batteries packed with equipment Section I of PI969 & Lithium metal batteries contained in equipment Section I of PI970, Class 9 UN3091)

Consignment of cargoes shall be screened by security screener to ensure full compliance of security requirements. In case there is suspect of lithium battery without proper declaration,

1. The security screener should inform RF supervisor, who should in turn notify the RA, to follow up with the shipper to confirm whether shipment is acceptable;
2. The RA or RF supervisor should check with shipper if whom may forget to make the lithium battery declaration for rectification;
3. If shipper confirms no lithium battery inside the consignment and able to provide relevant document e.g. MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet) as evidence, RF supervisor will review the appropriateness of document; including but not least for opening box as physical verification. Shipment could only be accepted after proper clarification above;

4. If neither declaration of lithium battery nor relevant document can be supplemented, shipment should be rejected for acceptance and keep a record.

**Expiry:** Indefinite