



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety
Administration**

April 25, 2025

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

DOT-SP 21543
(SECOND REVISION)

EXPIRATION DATE: 2029-03-31

(FOR RENEWAL, SEE 49 CFR 107.109)

1. GRANTEE: United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)
Bethesda, MD
2. PURPOSE AND LIMITATION:
 - a. This special permit authorizes the transportation in commerce of samples of lithium cells and batteries used in consumer products, including those contained in or packed with equipment or contained in battery-powered vehicles, which are not of a type proven to meet the requirements of section 38.3 of the UN Manual of Tests and Criteria. This special permit provides no relief from the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR) other than as specifically stated herein. The most recent revision supersedes all previous revisions.
 - b. The safety analyses performed in the development of this special permit only considered the hazards and risks associated with the transportation in commerce.
 - c. No party status will be granted to this special permit.
3. REGULATORY SYSTEM AFFECTED: 49 CFR Parts 106, 107 and 171-180.
4. REGULATIONS FROM WHICH EXEMPTED: 49 CFR § 173.185(a)(1) in that the lithium cells and batteries are not of a type proven to meet the criteria in Part III, subsection 38.3 of the UN Manual of Tests and Criteria as specified herein.
5. BASIS: This special permit is based on the application of United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) dated February 21, 2025, submitted in accordance with § 107.109.

Tracking Number: 2025024918

6. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (49 CFR 172.101):

Hazardous Materials Description			
Proper Shipping Name	Hazard Class/ Division	Identification Number	Packing Group
Battery-powered vehicle	9	UN3171	N/A
Lithium ion batteries	9	UN3480	N/A
Lithium metal batteries	9	UN3090	N/A
Lithium ion batteries contained in equipment	9	UN3481	N/A
Lithium ion batteries packed with equipment	9	UN3481	N/A
Lithium metal batteries contained in equipment	9	UN3091	N/A
Lithium metal batteries packed with equipment	9	UN3091	N/A

7. SAFETY CONTROL MEASURES:a. PACKAGING REQUIREMENTS:

(1) Cells, Batteries, and Equipment:

(i) Inner Packaging: Cells, batteries, and equipment containing cells or batteries must be individually packaged in inner packagings that completely enclose the cells, batteries, or equipment and surrounded by cushioning material that is non-combustible, and electrically non-conductive.

(ii) Cells and batteries must be protected against short circuiting.

(iii) Outer Packaging: The inner packaging(s) must be packaged in:

(A) An outer packaging conforming to § 173.185(b)(3)(ii) if the lithium cells and batteries, including those contained in or packed with equipment, do not exceed the size limits in § 173.185(c)(1)(iv); or

(B) An outer packaging conforming to § 173.185(b)(3)(ii) if the lithium cells and batteries, including those contained in or packed with equipment, exceed the size limits in § 173.185(c)(1)(iv), except that fiberboard boxes (4G) or fiber drums (1G) are not authorized.

(iv) The void spaces within the outer packaging must be filled with non-combustible and electrically non-conductive cushioning material in a manner to prevent short circuits, to absorb leaking electrolyte, to protect from the effects of shock and vibration, and to prevent damage resulting from the movement of cells, batteries and/or equipment during transportation.

(v) The inner and outer packagings must be leak-proof to prevent the potential release of electrolyte.

(2) Battery-powered vehicles (UN3171) must be packaged and transported in accordance with § 173.220(d).

b. TESTING:

(1) Each cell need not be of a type proven to meet the requirements of section 38.3 of the UN Manual of Tests and Criteria.

(2) Each battery need not be of a type proven to meet the requirements of section 38.3 of the UN Manual of Tests and Criteria.

c. OPERATIONAL CONTROLS:

(1) This special permit is valid only for the transportation of samples of lithium cells and batteries used in consumer products, including those contained in or packed with equipment or contained in battery-powered vehicles for investigation or analysis purposes when the CPSC cannot readily obtain records of testing to meet the requirements of section 38.3 of the UN Manual of Tests and Criteria.

(2) The packaged samples may only be transported to the three destinations indicated in the CPSC's January 31, 2024, application, which is on file with the Office of Hazardous Materials Safety.

(3) Hazardous materials trained CPSC staff must prepare the packages for shipment.

(4) No damaged lithium cells or batteries may be transported under the terms of this special permit.

d. MARKING: Each package, and overpack if used, prepared under the provisions of this special permit must be plainly marked with the special permit number: DOT-SP 21543.

8. SPECIAL PROVISIONS:

a. A person who is not a holder of this special permit who receives a package covered by this special permit may reoffer it for transportation provided no modification or change is made to the package and it is reoffered for transportation in conformance with this special permit and the HMR.

b. A current copy of this special permit must be maintained at each facility where the package is offered or reoffered for transportation.

9. MODES OF TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZED: Motor vehicle.

10. MODAL REQUIREMENTS: A current copy of this special permit must be carried aboard each motor vehicle used to transport packages covered by this special permit.

11. COMPLIANCE: Failure by a person to comply with any of the following may result in suspension or revocation of this special permit and penalties prescribed by the Federal hazardous materials transportation law, 49 U.S.C. 5101 et seq:

- o All terms and conditions prescribed in this special permit and the Hazardous Materials Regulations, 49 CFR Parts 171-180.
- o Persons operating under the terms of this special permit must comply with the security plan requirement in Subpart I of Part 172 of the HMR, when applicable.
- o Registration required by § 107.601 et seq., when applicable.

Each “Hazmat employee”, as defined in § 171.8, who performs a function subject to this special permit must receive training on the requirements and conditions of this special permit in addition to the training required by §§ 172.700 through 172.704.

No person may use or apply this special permit, including display of its number, when this special permit has expired or is otherwise no longer in effect.

Under Title VII of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)—“The Hazardous Materials Safety and Security Reauthorization Act of 2005” (Pub. L. 109-59), 119 Stat. 1144 (August 10, 2005),

amended the Federal hazardous materials transportation law by changing the term “exemption” to “special permit” and authorizes a special permit to be granted up to two years for new special permits and up to four years for renewals.

12. **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:** Shipments or operations conducted under this special permit are subject to the Hazardous Materials Incident Reporting requirements specified in 49 CFR §§ 171.15 - Immediate notice of certain hazardous materials incidents, and 171.16 - Detailed hazardous materials incident reports. In addition, the grantee(s) of this special permit must notify the Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety, in writing, of any incident involving a package, shipment or operation conducted under terms of this special permit.

Issued in Washington, D.C.:



for William Schoonover
Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety

Address all inquiries to: Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety, Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, East Building PHH-13, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, Southeast, Washington, D.C. 20590.

Copies of this special permit may be obtained by accessing the Hazardous Materials Safety Homepage at <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/approvals-and-permits/hazmat/special-permits-search>. Photo reproductions and legible reductions of this special permit are permitted. Any alteration of this special permit is prohibited.

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