

U.S. Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

OCT 1 1 2018

Susan Bernard Wiley Rein LLP 1776 K Street NW Washington, DC 20006

Reference No. 18-0065

Dear Ms. Bernard:

This letter is in response to your client's April 17, 2018, letter requesting clarification of the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180) applicable to lithium ion battery packs. Your client describes the lithium ion battery pack as follows:

- The battery pack is designed to provide power to various measurement and radio equipment.
- The design consists of two individual batteries with cells in series and parallel contained in a single plastic housing.
- The battery pack includes a printed circuit board assembly (PCBA) enclosed in the plastic housing.
- Each lithium battery is separately wired to the PCBA.
- The PCBA provides independent protection circuitry for each individual battery.
- These batteries have been tested in accordance with the United Nations (UN) 38.3 lithium battery test in accordance with the HMR.

Your client asks if the battery pack as described and illustrated in his letter is considered two individual batteries for purposes of the HMR.

Based on the proprietary memorandum you provided describing the configuration and the associated schematics, it is the opinion of this Office that your client's rechargeable battery pack is comprised of two batteries provided they are electrically isolated from each other.

I hope this information is helpful. Please contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Henn Toster

T. Glenn Foster Chief, Regulatory Review and Reinvention Branch Standards and Rulemaking Division



April 17, 2018

U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration Office of Hazardous Materials Standards 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE. Washington, DC 20590-0001

Re: Request for Interpretation Letter on Lithium ion Battery Pack Design

I am writing to request written confirmation from PHMSA that our lithium ion battery pack (P/N UBBL62) constitutes two individual lithium ion batteries for purposes of the U.S. and international hazardous materials regulations. As explained in more detail below, the battery pack is of similar design to the one described in a letter to PHMSA dated November 25, 2014 from Space Information Laboratories (Ref. No. 14-0152). That is, the battery pack is comprised of two individual lithium ion batteries that are electrically isolated from each other.

Our lithium ion battery pack consists of two individual batteries each with 3S2P cells in series and parallel (e.g., 4S2P) contained in a single plastic housing. The battery pack is designed to provide power to various measurement and radio equipment. The battery pack includes a printed circuit board assembly (PCBA) enclosed in the plastic housing. Each lithium ion battery is separately wired to the PCBA. The PCBA provides independent protection circuitry for each individual battery. The batteries have been tested in accordance with the UN38.3 lithium battery tests as required by regulation. Attached is a confidential schematic drawing of the battery for reference.

Again, we request written confirmation from PHMSA that our battery pack contains individual lithium ion batteries for purposes of the U.S. and international hazardous materials regulations because they are separately wired within the plastic housing and the PCBA provides independent protection circuitry for each individual battery.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

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