

FAQ FOR LITHIUM BATTERY LIFECYCLE ADVISORY NOTICE



Lithium battery related fires and general safety concerns have prompted the Department of Transportation (DOT) to issue several updates over the past few years regarding management requirements for lithium battery shipments. The newest updates go into effect on August 7, 2015.

Heritage customers are advised to implement these new procedures immediately to offer enhanced safety during transportation. This notice includes an example of the new lithium handling label and revised packing instructions. Please reference these procedures and the supplemental information provided in your LifeCycle lithium kit.

Heritage LifeCycle customers ship lithium batteries using what are often referred to as small and medium battery exceptions, which are found in DOT regulations at 49 CFR 173.185(c). These regulations allow shipment of lithium batteries through normal mail channels. These exceptions are still available, but more requirements have been added. These requirements are as follows:

Outer Box Markings

New information must be included on the outer package to inform handlers of the package contents and assist with emergency response measures if they are necessary.



Revised Packing Instructions

Individual batteries must be fully enclosed by a nonconductive liner, in contrast to simply taping the battery terminals. This can be accomplished by placing individual batteries in a Ziploc®-style baggie. Small button batteries can be sandwiched between two pieces of electrical or duct tape. Press the tape edges to ensure a good seal around the batteries.

Batteries placed inside the shipping container should be packed so there is minimal movement within the outer container. Vermiculite is recommended as a lightweight, non-conductive packing material. This typically can be found in the gardening supplies section of many retail outlet stores.



Battery Energy Ratings

Only certain lithium batteries are eligible for these shipping exceptions, and this eligibility is based primarily on energy capacity. Separate limits apply to lithium metal (non-rechargeable) and lithium ion (rechargeable) batteries.

Most consumer type batteries (button cells, camera, and laptop) fit within these exceptions. A battery's energy capacity will be marked on the battery. The limits are as follows:

- Lithium Ion = < 60Wh cell or < 300 Wh Battery
- Lithium Metal = < 5g per cell or < 25g per battery

To help calculate the Watt-hour energy rating, please use the formula below.

- Watt-hour (Wh) = Ampere-hour (Ah) x volts (V)

Thank You for using Heritage LifeCycle services. If you have questions regarding these procedures, please contact 1-888-347-7671.

For more information about Heritage LifeCycle visit our website at:
store.heritage-enviro.com