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NEWS

4 June 2015

Safer packaging for air transport of lithium batteries

With pilots and plane makers saying they pose a fire risk, the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) dangerous goods panel is to set up a group of experts to develop safer packaging for the transport of lithium ion batteries used in phones and laptops.

The new packaging standards would also apply to lithium metal batteries, which are used in watches and are banned on passenger planes globally.

A working group will consider proposals to improve packaging standards at an October meeting, and if approved these would be included in the 2017-2018 edition of its technical instructions for dangerous goods transport.

Meanwhile, the International Air Transport Association (Iata) will publish a new addendum this month identifying new restrictions announced by individual carriers for transporting the batteries.



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