

A New Hazard-Based Classification System for Shipping Lithium Batteries as Dangerous Goods: Background and Update

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The evolution of lithium battery chemistries, the claims of “safer” lithium battery designs, and the knowledge gained over the past 25 years regarding the hazards posed by lithium batteries in transport has pushed the United Nations Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transportation of Dangerous Goods to embark on a new hazard-based classification system for classifying and shipping lithium batteries. An Informal Working Group associated with the United Nations Sub-Committee has started the process of developing this new classification system and a first round of benchmark testing has been completed on lithium ion cells. Mr. Kerchner will report on the progress of the Working Group, benchmark testing, and what can be expected over the next several years as this classification system is being developed.