How to ship lithium batteries

Lithium batteries are becoming increasingly common – they’re in our everyday items, like phones, laptops and watches. But they can also be dangerous as they can ignite. Transported incorrectly or not declared, they pose a significant threat to all points in our supply chain. Your compliance will help keep everyone and everything in our network safe, so use the below flow chart to ensure you’re shipping your lithium batteries correctly.

Please Note
- Lithium batteries cannot be transported in satchels; they must be packaged securely in durable cardboard cartons.
- TNT cannot transport loose lithium batteries by Air (Domestic or International) in any quantity.

How many batteries are you shipping (either loose/separate, within a device or packaged with the corresponding device)?

1-2
(max. 4 cells per battery)

Separate/loose

Within a device or packaged with the corresponding device

Ship via Road, Air and Sea services (Domestic and International) using standard TNT consignment notes

Complete a standard TNT consignment note, ensuring you write "Loose lithium batteries" in the description

Ship via Road and Sea freight services (Domestic and International)

Under 100 watt hours* (lithium ion) or under 2g lithium** (lithium metal)

Domestic*: Use a standard Domestic consignment note, ensuring you list the appropriate lithium battery type and IATA/ADG code (lithium ion or lithium metal) in the special instructions

Domestic*: Use a Dangerous Goods consignment note, ensuring you list the appropriate lithium battery type and IATA/ADG code (lithium ion or lithium metal) in the special instructions and tick the Dangerous Goods box

International*: Use a standard International consignment note, ensuring you list the appropriate lithium battery type and IATA/ADG code (lithium ion or lithium metal) in the special instructions

International*: Use a standard International consignment note, ensuring you list the appropriate lithium battery type and IATA/ADG code (lithium ion or lithium metal) in the special instructions, complete the Dangerous Goods Shippers declaration form (Air or Road) and tick the Dangerous Goods box

3 or more

Battery strength

100 or more watt hours* (lithium ion) or 2 or more grams of lithium** (lithium metal)

Domestic*: Use a Dangerous Goods consignment note, ensuring you list the appropriate lithium battery type and IATA/ADG code (lithium ion or lithium metal) in the special instructions and tick the Dangerous Goods box

International*: Use a Dangerous Goods consignment note, ensuring you list the appropriate lithium battery type and IATA/ADG code (lithium ion or lithium metal) in the special instructions, complete the Dangerous Goods Shippers declaration form (Air) and tick the Dangerous Goods box

Stick the consignment note, lithium battery handling label and a Dangerous Goods diamond next to one another on each box in the consignment and hand your completed Dangerous Goods Shippers declaration form to your driver on pick up.

Please Note
- You can determine the watt hours of your lithium ion battery using the following formula:
  Volts x ampere hour (Ah) = watt hours
  NB. Some batteries may also list it on the battery exterior. Many batteries are labelled in milliamper hour (mAh). To convert this to Ah, divide the mAh by 1,000.

- You can determine how much lithium metal is contained in your lithium metal battery using the following formula:
  Ampere hours (Ah) per cell x 0.3 gm x number of cells = grams of lithium metal in the battery
  NB. Many batteries are labelled in milliamper hours (mAh). To convert this to Ah, divide the mAh by 1,000.

This document is a basic guide only, further requirements may apply. Please consult your Account Manager for more information.