

TÜV Rheinland LGA Products - Information

12/2019

Hazardous materials requirement amendment regarding the Transport of Lithium Batteries, effective 01.01.2020

For many years now, it must be proven that test series on lithium cells and batteries have been successfully carried out in accordance with the UN Manual of Tests and Criteria Part III, Section 38.3 (short "UN 38.3 Test")

For the following statements, the generic term "lithium batteries" is used for lithium-ion cells, lithium-ion batteries, lithium-metal cells (also lithium-metal button cells) and lithium-metal batteries, as the regulations only differ in the details of the test execution.

As of 01.01.2020, formalized test report summaries must be provided by the manufacturers and distributors for all lithium batteries instead of or in addition to the currently used safety data sheets or UN 38.3 test reports (often very extensive and usually available from battery manufacturers only).

"Manufacturers and distributors of cells or batteries manufactured after June 30th 2003 shall provide the test summary set out in The Manual of Tests and Criteria Part III, subsection 38.3 paragraph 38.3.5."

This is not merely a document accompanying transport, but various parties involved in the transport of dangerous goods must ensure that the lithium batteries are correctly classified. This includes testing whether they are UN 38.3 compliant transport-safe batteries and not prototypes, which have not been tested according to UN 38.3. The latter would be subject to different packaging and transport requirements. Requests for this test report summaries can therefore also be made to distributors of such batteries or articles with lithium batteries, so that these documents should in any case be available there. Such requests may, for example, come from logistics service providers.

Batteries which do not fully comply with the hazardous material requirements (this includes a correct test report summary) will no longer be approved for transport as of 01.01.2020.

Exceptions:

- Prototype batteries which have not yet passed any UN38.3 test
- Damaged lithium batteries which no longer comply with UN38.3 due to their defects

For these lithium batteries, there are specific transport regulations regarding packaging, labelling, etc.

It remains to be seen how logistics service providers will position themselves in this situation. It is to be expected that, in the strictest interpretation of the factual and regulatory situation, logistics service providers could refuse to transport/load lithium batteries without a test summary, request written confirmation of the existence of a correct test report summary or even the request the test report summaries themselves for verification purposes.

Text suggestion for the request of the test summary of lithium batteries from the manufacturer and/or distributors:

As of 01.01.2020 manufacturers and distributors of lithium batteries or cells (rechargeable lithium ion batteries) must provide a test report summary of the successful conduct of the test series according to The UN Manual of Tests and Criteria Part III, Section 38.3 (6th Revised Edition, Modification/ Amendment 1) – in short “UN 38.3 Test”.

Please send us the corresponding test report summary/summaries for the following products promptly, preferably by email:

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If you are not a battery manufacturer, please contact one of below to receive the test report summary.

Legal bases on the necessity of this test summary can be found in the relevant dangerous goods transport regulations:

- Street/ Rail/ Barge: ADR, RID, ADN 2019 2.2.9.1.7 g)
- Sea: IMDG-Code 39. Amendment: 2.9.4.7
- Air: IATA-DGR 60./ 61. Edition: 3.9.2.6.1 (g)

The following information must be provided in the test report summary:

- (a) Name of the cell, battery or product manufacturer, as applicable;
- (b) Contact information of the cell, battery or product manufacturer, including address, telephone number, email address and website for further information;
- (c) Name of the test lab, including address, telephone number, email address and website for further information;
- (d) A unique test report identification number;
- (e) Date of test report;
- (f) A description of the cell or battery which contains at least the following:
 - I. Lithium ion cell/ battery or lithium metal cell or batteries
 - II. Mass
 - III. Nominal energy/ watt hour information (for lithium ion cells and batteries) or lithium content (lithium metal cell or battery)
 - IV. Model number
- (g) List of conducted tests and results (pass/fail)
- (h) Reference to the test requirements for composite batteries, if applicable (Tests UN Manual 38.3.3 (f) and 38.3.3 (g))
- (i) Reference to the revised edition of The Manual on Tests and Criteria and any amendments*; and
- (j) Signature with the name and title of the signatory as an indication of the validity of the information provided

* Status 12/2019: Subsection 38.3 of the Manual of Tests and Criteria, Third Revised Edition, *Modification/Addition/Amendment 1* or the applicable revised edition with modification/amendment at the time of type-testing.

Batteries corresponding to a type which has been tested in accordance with the requirements of subsection 38.3 of the Manual of Tests and Criteria, Third Revised Edition (without modification/addition/ amendment 1) may only be transported if they were manufactured before 01.07.2003.

While the above information must be included, there is no fixed form or binding example.

The English Edition of the 6th edition of the UN Manual of Tests and Criteria can be found here:

<http://www.unece.org/trans/areas-of-work/dangerous-goods/legal-instruments-and-recommendations/un-manual-of-tests-and-criteria/rev6-files.html>

Amendment 1 of the 6th edition can be found here in English:

<http://www.unece.org/trans/areas-of-work/dangerous-goods/legal-instruments-and-recommendations/un-manual-of-tests-and-criteria/amend-to-rev6.html>

Section 38.3.5 describes the contents of the test summary.

Simple informal confirmations in correspondence or blanket statements in safety data sheets regarding the successful testing according to UN 38.3 are no longer sufficient.

The test requirements according to UN 38.3 and the corresponding test summary requirement apply to “small” batteries (<100 Wh/ <2 g Lithium) as well as large cells and batteries.

For further technical information, please contact us:

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