



# Nickel-Metal Hydride Batteries

## Guidance on the air transport of UN 3496, Batteries, nickel-metal hydride

This guidance document is provided by IATA to address the difficulties experienced by parties shipping and/or accepting UN 3496, **Batteries, nickel metal hydride** and equipment containing nickel-metal hydride batteries by air transport.

### Background

The entry, UN 3496, **Batteries, nickel-metal hydride** was brought into the 55th edition of the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations (DGR) to ensure the list of dangerous goods is "complete" and aligned to the list of UN numbers in the UN Model Regulations. UN 3496 is only regulated in international maritime transport.

### Transport by Air

These batteries may be shipped by air transport. The batteries are considered "not restricted" provided that the shipper complies with the requirements of Special Provision A199. This may involve the freight forwarder correctly indicating the required text on the air waybill, when an air waybill is used. The UN Number "UN 3496" is not a UN Number used in air transport and should not be used in association with the description of the goods.

It is understood there is some confusion with the "forbidden" being shown in Columns G / H that apply to limited quantity for UN 3496, but the wording of Special Provision A199 makes it clear that the entry is only regulated in sea transport.

**A199** *The UN number UN 3496 is only applicable in sea transport. Nickel-metal hydride batteries or nickel-metal hydride battery-powered devices, equipment or vehicles having the potential of a dangerous evolution of heat are not subject to these Regulations provided they are prepared for transport so as to prevent:*

- (a) a short circuit (e.g. in the case of batteries, by the effective insulation of exposed terminals; or, in the case of equipment, by disconnection of the battery and protection of exposed terminals); and*
- (b) unintentional activation.*

*The words "Not Restricted" and the Special Provision number must be included in the description of the substance on the Air Waybill as required by 8.2.6, when an Air Waybill is issued.*

You can contact the IATA Dangerous Goods Support team if you have questions or concerns that may not have been addressed in this document at: [dangood@iata.org](mailto:dangood@iata.org).