

**USTRANSCOM Personal Property Advisory #23-0044B; Supersedes USTC PP Advisory #23-0044A, Dated 4 April 2023**

**Date:** 22 September 2023

**From:** USTRANSCOM Defense Personal Property Management Office (DPMO), Scott AFB, IL 62225

**To:** All Military Service Headquarters Representatives, Worldwide Personal Property Shipping Offices (PPSOs), and Department of Defense (DoD) Approved Transportation Service Providers (TSPs)

**Subject:** Update #2 Lithium Batteries in Personal Property Shipments

1. This advisory is provided to remind industry to follow the requirements for packing, labeling, and certifying lithium batteries (as required) in household good (HHG) shipments outlined below and in accordance with the 2023 HHG Tender of Service.
2. **Bold red font** used throughout is not new and is for emphasis.
3. DPMO recognizes the hard work and response to the guidance on handling of lithium batteries in DoD personal property shipments. The DPMO has seen minimal concern or questions related to the labeling and packing of personal property shipments that contain lithium batteries.
4. However, we have received inquiries regarding shipments moving through aerial ports and want to reiterate the requirements to ensure that labeling is clear and information is readily available to port employees to verify the contents within shipments containing lithium batteries.
5. Packers should only place lithium battery labels on those shipments that contain lithium batteries to avoid delays in shipments processing through ports.
6. Figure 1 and Figure 2 provide examples of container labeling for shipments moving through ports. UN Labels and other applicable markings should be placed to clearly identify the presence of lithium batteries. In addition, the packing list should be placed on the outside and contain the following document(s):
  - 6.1. Inventory
  - 6.2. Hazardous Certification (if required)
7. For additional guidance on how to properly mark lithium batteries based on the type and size, please reference Department of Transportation Lithium Battery Guide for shippers, found here: <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/training/hazmat/lithium-battery-guide-shippers>.
8. The policies on shipment of lithium batteries were effective 15 May 2023.
9. Although lithium batteries should not have been shipped or stored in personal property prior

to the effective date of 15 May 2023, the DoD recognizes customers and/or TSPs could have unknowingly included them as part of their personal property shipment and/or storage. Lithium batteries that are currently in transit or may have previously been placed in storage are not affected by this advisory and customer's lithium battery items, in NTS, will not be subject to removal.

**10.** Counselors must brief customers that the TSP will handle lithium batteries or items containing lithium batteries at limited levels. However, lithium batteries of all types and sizes are **prohibited** from Non-Temporary Storage (NTS). While NTS is prohibited, storage in-transit is allowed; however, if any shipment is rerouted to or converted to NTS the customer may have to provide disposition instructions to remove the item(s) from their shipment.

**11.** Counselors should also advise customers that the requirements below for lithium batteries pertain to shipping and/or storing as a personally procured move. Customers **will not** be reimbursed for shipping lithium batteries over the allowable watt-hours below in Paragraph 12.

**12.** Additionally, counselors should brief customers on the two (2) types of lithium batteries (Lithium Metal and Lithium Ion).

12.1. Lithium metal batteries are commonly found in cameras, watches, remote controls, handheld games, and smoke detectors. Lithium metal batteries are single use and NOT rechargeable and come in various forms including cylindrical, button cells, or coin cells. Always check items for the type of batteries installed. They will commonly identify lithium battery on the item.

12.2. Lithium-ion batteries are commonly found in cellphones, power tools, digital cameras, laptops, children's toys, electric cigarettes, robot vacuums, small and large appliances, tablets, e-readers, lawn care equipment, and electric bikes (e-bikes). Lithium-ion batteries are rechargeable and intended for multiple use. Some lithium-ion batteries are internal to a product and not easily removable, while others may be. Check manufacturer's instructions for battery removal, if applicable.

**13.** The TSP is required to properly package, label, and certify (if required) lithium-ion batteries rated at 100 watt-hours or less (20 watt-hours or less for lithium-ion cell) and lithium metal batteries containing two (2) grams or less of lithium content (one (1) gram or less for lithium metal cell). These stated limits are not aggregate of all lithium batteries in your personal property. For example, shipping two (2) lithium-ion batteries at 50 watt-hours does not mean customers have met the allowed lithium battery limit. They could have three, four, etc. lithium-ion batteries that are each 75 watt-hours. They would all be allowed because they are under the lithium-ion battery limit of 100 watt-hours, given they are all in a working condition and properly packaged, labeled and/or certified (if required).

**14.** For air shipments, lithium batteries are typically limited to a max of two (2) lithium batteries per consignment (shipment). However, each air carrier may have determined shipments of lithium batteries are not allowed. It is important to understand this requirement and, if possible, limit what you ship as part of a shipment that may go by air transport to not cause delays.

**15.** To assist customers in identifying lithium batteries in their household customers should be

briefed that for lithium-ion batteries, the watt-hour rating is sometimes printed on the battery; or an Internet search of the make and model of the item containing the battery may provide the size of the battery. If not, take the volts (V) and multiply by ampere-hours (Ah) to determine watt-hours. If the battery has milliampere, often written as mAh, divide the mAh by 1000. For example, a lithium-ion battery with 3500 mAh would be equal to 3.5 Ah. For lithium metal, take the ampere-hours and multiply by .3 to get the lithium content.

**16.** Customer must be briefed that e-bikes, scooters, and large lawn equipment (e.g., riding lawnmowers) powered by lithium-ion batteries are some common items that may be prohibited in personal property shipments given they have unique shipping requirements and are often larger than the 100-watt-hour size limitation.

**17.** DPMO is coordinating updates to Defense Transportation Regulation and preparing a customer fact sheet to align with and assist in defining the requirements above.

**18.** Questions about this advisory may be sent to [transcom.scott.tcj9.mbx.ox@mail.mil](mailto:transcom.scott.tcj9.mbx.ox@mail.mil).

**19.** This message was approved for release by the Deputy Director for Operations, Defense Personal Property Management Office, TCJ9-O.

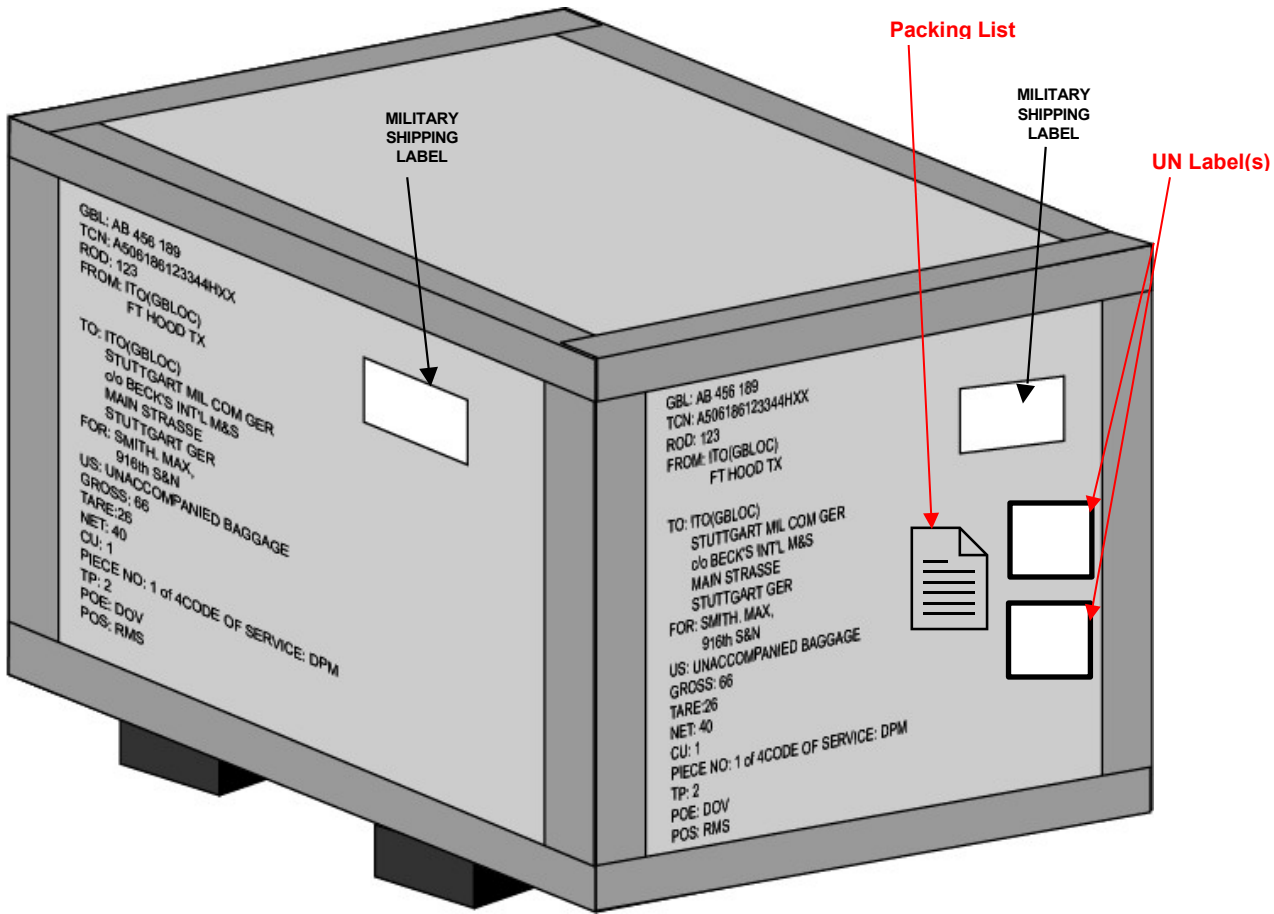


Figure 1. Example of Markings of Unaccompanied Baggage

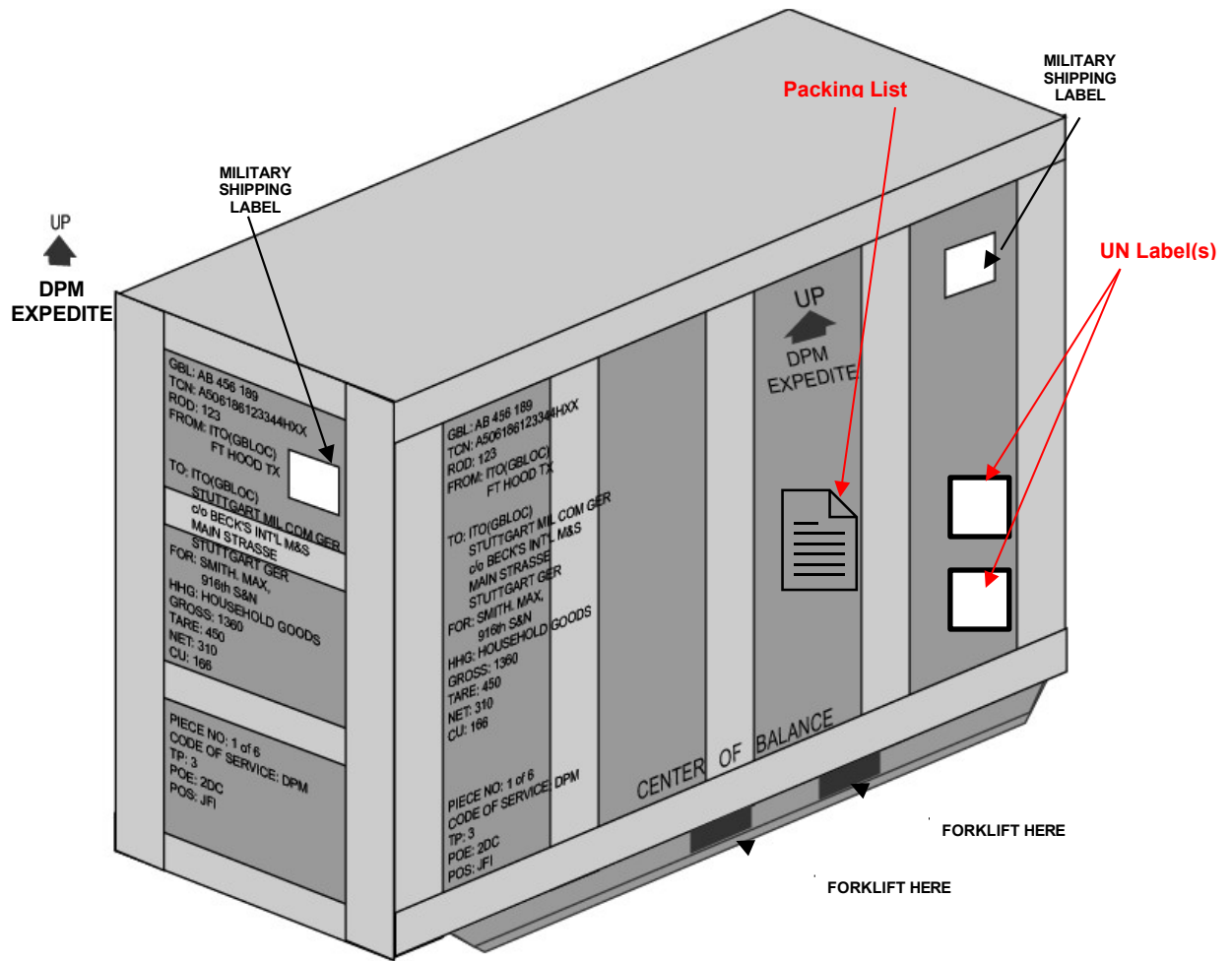


Figure 2. Example of Markings for Household Goods