

Centralized Household Goods Traffic Management Program (CHAMP)

Lithium Batteries Facts Sheet

You are prohibited from including lithium batteries in a CHAMP household goods shipment.*



Lithium-ion and lithium metal batteries are classified as hazardous materials by the Department of Transportation for shipping purposes. The Federal Travel Regulation, **Chapter 300-3.1**'s definition of personal property prohibits shipment of hazardous materials at government expense. If your agency is Title 5 exempt and guided by other policy, check with your agency for specific directions regarding shipment of hazardous materials or lithium batteries, specifically.

***If you are relocating under the Department of State, you fall under different regulations. Check with Department of State for specific guidance.**



Why are lithium batteries hazardous?

Lithium cells and batteries are more energy dense than ever due to improved technology and consumer demand for higher-powered devices. With increased energy density comes greater risks and the need to manage them, particularly during transport. Unlike standard alkaline batteries, most lithium batteries contain a flammable electrolyte and have an incredibly high energy density.

You are responsible for ensuring that your household goods shipment does not contain lithium batteries. You may be liable for damages if you do not comply.

After the packing process, you will be asked to sign an attestation form citing that no lithium batteries are contained within your household goods shipment. If thermal runaway occurs, an investigation may be conducted to determine the cause. If it is determined that the damage was caused by a lithium battery contained within your household goods shipment, you may be held personally liable for the cost of damages to your shipment, other shipments, and the vessel.



Can I ship my electric or hybrid vehicle?

You may ship your privately owned vehicles (POVs) with your agency's approval. Electric and hybrid type models contain special batteries which require a hazardous material certification.

This certification may incur additional expenses. All POV shipments must be authorized by your agency, regardless of engine or fuel type. Ensure your EV is suitable for the destination.

Learn More

- Visit the Acquisition Gateway at hallways.cap.gsa.gov. Find us under the Travel Hallway>Employee Relocation.
- E: errc@gsa.gov
- T: 877-575-3772

How do I know if an item contains a lithium battery?

If an item is cordless, it typically runs on a lithium battery. Check the battery and look for "lithium", "Li", "UM", or "Li-Po" on the packaging or battery itself. Check the owner's guide. It should identify the type of battery used in the product.

What types of household items contain lithium batteries?

Lithium batteries are rechargeable and intended for multiple use. Examples include:

- cordless vacuums
- personal electronics
- power tools
- garden tools
- e-cigarettes
- toys
- specialized motor vehicles
- go-karts
- wheelchairs
- golf carts
- e-bikes
- scooters



If I can't ship them, what do I do with my items that contain lithium batteries?

You have a few options.

- Contact the product manufacturer and order a new lithium battery to be delivered to your new duty station.
- Sell or donate your items.
- Dispose of your items properly. Do not throw lithium batteries in the garbage. They are hazardous materials. Instead locate stores or centers that recycle lithium batteries, such as BatteriesPlus.
- Do not attempt to drain your lithium batteries, as this may make them less stable and safe.

Do personal electronic devices contain lithium batteries?

Examples of personal electronic devices include:

- laptop computer
- tablet
- mobile phone
- calculator
- e-reader
- watch
- digital camera
- hearing aid



These devices may contain other types of lithium batteries, such as coin, button-cell, metal, or single use. Some items are designed for the battery to be easily removed and replaced. In other items the battery is fixed and integrated into the design and cannot be removed. Do not attempt to forcibly remove a fixed or insulated battery. This could result in a fire or explosion.

Can I use air tags to track my shipment?

We highly discourage you from placing air tags in your household goods shipment, as these devices have active lithium metal batteries. Air tags emit a detectable frequency that can cause shipping disruptions.