

Federal Aviation Administration
Civil Aviation Security
Dangerous Goods Advisory Bulletin

**Information of Concern to Aviation Cargo and Cargo Security Personnel
Current Cargo Acceptance and Handling Procedures
Should be Reviewed in Light of this Information**

Subject: Prohibition of Oxygen Generators (Chemical) Aboard Passenger Aircraft
Number: DGAB-96-01
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INFORMATION: The National Transportation Safety Board and the FAA are investigating a recent accident involving a passenger-carrying aircraft. Preliminary evidence indicates that oxygen generators (chemical) may have caused the accident, or contributed to its severity. On May 24, 1996, the Research and Special Projects Administration (RSPA) of the Department of Transportation, issued an interim final rule to amend the Hazardous Materials Regulations to prohibit the offering, acceptance or transportation of oxygen generators as cargo in passenger-carrying aircraft. This interim final rule applies to both foreign and domestic passenger-carrying aircraft entering, leaving, or operating in the U.S. This regulation applies to oxygen generators (chemical) and not to cylinders containing compressed oxygen.

FAA COMMENT: Since the issuance of the interim final rule, the FAA has learned of instances in which oxygen generators are still being offered and carried aboard passenger aircraft. We believe that these occurrences are primarily due to confusion on the part of shipping and transportation personnel caused by the Proper Shipping Name (PSN) and basic description assigned to oxygen generators (chemical). The current authorized shipping description for an oxygen generator (chemical) containing sodium chlorate as the primary constituent is "Oxidizing solid, n.o.s., 5.1, UN1479, II." In addition, the technical names of the two components which most predominantly contribute to the hazards of the oxygen generator must be entered in parentheses in association with the basic description (see 49 CF 172.203(k)). For example, "Oxidizing solid, n.o.s., (contains sodium chlorate and barium peroxide), 5.1, UN1479, II."

FAA investigations have established, however, that in actual practice oxygen generators are also being shipped under various other basic descriptions. Air carrier cargo acceptance personnel should be aware that oxygen generators might be offered as cargo under any of the following basic descriptions:

1. **Oxidizing solid, n.o.s., 5.1, UN1479, II**
2. **Oxidizing substances, solid, n.o.s., 5.1, UN 1479, II**
3. **Sodium chlorate, 5.1, UN1495, II**
4. **Barium peroxide, 5.1, UN1449, II**
5. **Potassium perchlorate, solid, 5.1, UN1489, II**
6. **Potassium superoxide, 5.1, UN2466, I**

The FAA strongly advises all passenger air carrier cargo acceptance and handling personnel to be alert to any shipments being offered under any of the shipping descriptions noted above. Should such a shipment be encountered, carriers are strongly advised to question the offeror of the shipment as to the actual contents of the package and, if there is any doubt, conduct a physical inspection of the package. Under no circumstances should shipments using the above noted shipping descriptions be transported until the air carrier is satisfied that the package does **NOT** contain oxygen generators.

Air carrier repair station and cargo personnel are reminded to pay particular attention to shipments of company material (COMAT) that might contain oxygen generators, including those possibly contained in passenger service units or seat back assemblies being shipped as replacements or spares. Such shipments are, of course, prohibited aboard passenger aircraft, and must be otherwise shipped in full compliance with all hazardous materials regulations aboard cargo-only aircraft or via surface transportation.

(NOTE: RSPA anticipates adding a specific shipping name, "Oxygen generator (chemical)", to the Hazardous Materials Table in the near future. Until that change becomes effective, however, RSPA has requested that anyone shipping or reshipping oxygen generators take the following additional precautions: Mark each shipping paper and package "Oxygen generator (chemical)" in association with the shipping description on each shipping paper and the marked proper shipping name on each package. If there is any likelihood that such a shipment might be transported via air, insure that the "cargo aircraft only" marking is included.)

If any oxygen generator (chemical) is offered for transportation as cargo aboard a passenger air carrier, the air carrier should report such information by telephone, as soon as practicable, to the nearest Civil Aviation Security Office.

DISSEMINATION AND ACTION REQUIRED: This Dangerous Goods Advisory Bulletin is releasable to, and should be immediately provided to all U.S. passenger and cargo air carriers for the information of all corporate cargo/security/operations management personnel, all cargo acceptance/handling personnel, all certified aircraft repair station and maintenance facility personnel involved in the shipment of aircraft parts, and all cargo security personnel.

/s/

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