INFORMATION: Based on several incidents where heat generated by batteries or devices containing batteries have caused smoke and/or the initiation of a fire, the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) will publish advisory guidance in the Wednesday, July 7, 1999 edition of the Federal Register under [Docket No. RSPA-99-5143 (Notice No. 99-8)] "Advisory Guidance; Transportation of Batteries and Devices That Contain Batteries." The incidents described in the notice occurred while the batteries or devices containing batteries were in air commerce.

The advisory guidance issued by RSPA is intended to remind passengers, persons offering batteries and devices containing batteries as cargo, and air carriers that electrical storage devices or articles that contain batteries are forbidden in air transport unless properly prepared and protected from short circuits and other conditions that may create heat, smoke, or fire. Airline passengers and other persons offering these devices for transport must take appropriate action to ensure that any battery-powered electrical device in carry-on or checked baggage or cargo is protected from short-circuiting or accidental activation while in transport.

William Wilkening
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Dangerous Goods and Cargo Security