

**Sprint Nextel**



Together with NEXTEL

# Re-chargeable Lithium-Ion Battery Transportation

Julie Timberlake  
DOT & Driver Safety Compliance Manager  
9/26/2007

# Background

- **Sprint Nextel ships Lithium Ion Rechargeable batteries primarily when:**
  1. Shipping out new phones with batteries to customers.
  2. Used batteries shipped to recycling facilities.
  
- **Sprint Nextel procedures for shipping batteries:**
  1. Packaged securely to prevent short circuiting.
  2. Seal shipping box well with tape.
  3. Training on packaging & shipping conducted verbally with employees.
  
- ❖ **The incident that follows occurred when an employee DID NOT follow these procedures.**

# Situation June 19, 2007

- > Sprint Nextel Service and Repair employee in Redmond, Washington packed approximately 93 assorted used cell phone batteries into a box weighing approximately 14 pounds; 60 of the batteries were lithium ion types.
- > The batteries were not protected from short circuiting.
- > The package broke open during handling at the FedEx air freight facility.

View of package as seen by FAA at the Fed Ex Cargo facility on June 20, 2007.



**Sprint Nextel**

3

Re-chargeable Lithium Ion Battery Transportation

**Sprint** 

Together with NEXTEL

# Batteries removed from package.



**Sprint Nextel**

4

Re-chargeable Lithium Ion Battery Transportation

**Sprint** 

Together with NEXTEL

# Letter of Investigation - June 21, 2007

> **Sprint Nextel received a Letter of Investigation from the DOT - Federal Aviation Administration – Security and Hazardous Materials Division - for offering improperly prepared hazardous material for transportation in air commerce.**

1. Failure to properly class, describe, package, mark, label and render a hazardous material in condition for shipment;
2. Failure to comply with 173.24 – packaging requirement;
3. Failure to comply with 173.85(b) – cells & batteries must be packaged in a way to prevent short circuiting.

# A response letter was sent by Sprint to the U.S. DOT July 19, 2007

## ➤ Highlights of response letter:

- ❖ Overview of current training program.
- ❖ Effective immediately, Sprint will ship all surplus batteries by ground transport only.
- ❖ Updated SprintBuyBack website to include a reminder to the employee on the battery shipping procedures.
- ❖ New and more in depth web based training program being developed.
- ❖ New shipping label procedure will ensure box is marked to identify contents.

# FAA – Issues “Letter of Correction”

- > The DOT - Federal Aviation Administration – Security and Hazardous Materials Division issued a Letter of Correction on August 30, 2007, stating that:
- > “The decision has been made that this matter may best be addressed through the issuance of this official Letter of Correction, based upon the company’s commitment to institute and maintain the systems, methods, and procedures outlined in your Letter of Response. Sprint Nextel’s continued compliance with all requirements of the Hazardous Materials Regulations is expected.”

# *What is Sprint doing now?*

## Special Provision 188

Lithium Ion Cell Phone Batteries *Packed with or contained in equipment* when transported by vehicle must follow these requirements:

1. Battery contacts must be taped or each battery must be placed into separate plastic bags to prevent short circuiting.
2. Must be properly packed in a shipping box capable of supporting the load.
3. Vacant space needs to be filled with packing material such as Styrofoam popcorn or bubble-wrap to avoid movement during transport.
4. The shipping box needs to be properly secured with packing tape to avoid breaking open during transport.

## *What is Sprint doing now (cont)?*

**Lithium Ion Cell Phone batteries that are NOT contained in equipment, AND packaged in quantities of 12 or more and being transported by vehicle, in addition to the above, must adhere to the following:**

1. Package must be marked:

“CONTAINS LITHIUM ION BATTERIES  
HANDLE WITH CARE  
MAY BE FLAMMABLE IF DAMAGED”

2. Gross Weight of package must not exceed 66 pounds.

# Sprint Shipping Rechargeable Lithium Ion Batteries at Sprint

A Fact Sheet prepared by the Sprint Environmental, Health & Safety Department

## Background

Lithium Ion batteries are used by Sprint Nextel to power cell phones, Blackberries & Treos. These batteries are shipped to customers by Sprint Nextel and by 3<sup>rd</sup> parties such as UPS and FedEx. It is Sprint's policy to ship by ground only. On occasion, questions are directed to Sprint Nextel's Environmental, Health and Safety Department concerning hazardous material concerns as it pertains to the shipment of Lithium Ion cell phone batteries. This fact sheet discusses shipping of Lithium Ion batteries at Sprint Nextel.

### Cell Phone Batteries

- **Packed with or contained in equipment**  
Must follow these requirements when transported by vehicle:

1. Battery contacts must be taped or each battery must be placed into separate plastic bags to prevent short circuiting.
2. Must be properly packed in a shipping box capable of supporting the load.
3. Vacant space needs to be filled with packing material such as Styrofoam popcorn or bubble-wrap to avoid movement during transport.
4. The shipping box needs to be properly secured with packing tape to avoid breaking open during transport.

- **Except when contained in equipment, a package containing more than 12 LITHIUM ION Batteries.**

Must follow these additional requirements when transported by vehicle:

5. Package must be marked:

**"CONTAINS LITHIUM ION BATTERIES  
HANDLE WITH CARE  
MAY BE FLAMMABLE IF DAMAGED"**

6. Gross Weight of package must not exceed 66 pounds.

The most common Lithium Ion batteries shipped by Sprint Nextel are manufactured by Motorola, Samsung, Sanyo and LG Chem. The same guidelines apply to other Lithium Ion Batteries that are not listed here.

**NOTE:** For Lithium Ion batteries which have exceeded their recharging capacity and are not shipped as part of this process, the EHS Dry Cell Battery Recycling Program should be utilized to ensure proper disposition. Refer to this link for additional information:  
[http://pold.corp.sprint.com/ehs/env/dry\\_cell.s.html](http://pold.corp.sprint.com/ehs/env/dry_cell.s.html)

### Additional Resources

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Julie Timberlake, DOT & Driver Safety Program Manager, via email: [julie.a.timberlake@sprint.com](mailto:julie.a.timberlake@sprint.com), or by phone: 919-554-7437.



## MAJOR CHANGES SUMMARY

As a result of the new combined rule (HM224C & HM224E) August 9, 2007 :

- > **Small battery exception from UN testing is eliminated.**
  - Effective 10/1/09 the battery must meet the requirements of each test in the UN Manual of Tests & Criteria (see 49 CFR 171.7)
  
- > **A new marking paperwork requirement is added for small batteries that are shipped under Special Provision 188.**
  - Effective 10/1/08 – except when contained in equipment, 12 or more batteries, package must be marked to indicate it contains lithium batteries and special procedures should be followed in the event that the package is damaged.

