

New rules for shipping Lithium Batteries

From **January 2013**, The Civil Aviation Authority and the Department of Transport have agreed new rules for the Royal Mail and have prohibited Lithium batteries being sent through their postal network. This means all sales of Lithium batteries will have to be delivered using our courier DPD and the delivery charge for these products will be **£6.95 for a next day delivery**. The product groups affected include; Lithium coin cells, standard Lithium batteries AA, AAA and 9V, photo Lithium batteries, mobile, camera and camcorder Lithium-ion batteries. We already use a courier company specially for our Laptop Computer Battery range, so these are not affected.

Why have these rules been brought into place?

Lithium metal batteries are classed as dangerous good by United Nations 3090 legislation and are subject to transport regulations. The Civil Aviation Authority and the Department of Transport have agreed new rules for the Royal Mail and have prohibited Lithium batteries throughout their network. Breaking these rules will be a criminal offence.

Lithium batteries can provide extremely high currents and can discharge very rapidly when short circuited. Although this is useful in applications where high currents are required, a too-rapid discharge of a Lithium battery can result in overheating of the battery, rupture or on very rare occasion's explosion. Consumer batteries sold by The Battery Company are safe as they incorporate over current or thermal protection or vents in order to prevent explosion.

What are Lithium Batteries typically used for?

Lithium batteries are superior from other batteries due to their long life and voltage. The Lithium battery has a high cell voltage of typically 3V compared with 1.5V for a typical alkaline or silver oxide battery. These batteries also have a virtual constant voltage over the discharge period which makes them ideal for use in sensitive equipment. Lithium coin cells use 3V and power devices such as calculators, watches, clocks, weighing machines and many other small electronic appliances.

All the Lithium batteries sold by The Battery Company are exempt from the UN regulations due to the amount of Lithium in each cell being less than 1g Lithium content. However Royal Mail has prohibited all Lithium batteries including batteries exempt from the regulations.

Please accept our apologies for the increased delivery charges, and hope that you understand our predicament. We have arranged with our couriers lower prices for shipment of these lightweight items, which is lower than our standard DPD shipment costs, and to offset these extra delivery charges we are offering box quantities of Lithium cells, which will make it more cost effective. These have a long shelf life, so you can store them at home for future use with no problems.