



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

MAY 12 2016

Mr. Joseph Tsiyoni
1415 N. Rose Street
Tempe, AZ 85281

Ref. No. 16-0006

Dear Mr. Tsiyoni:

This is a response to your December 17, 2015 letter requesting clarification of the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180) relating to a lithium ion battery-powered wheelchair or other mobility aid carried by aircraft passengers or crewmembers. Specifically, you ask for clarification on the rules about the size and capacity of the motor and battery allowed on a wheelchair or other battery-powered mobility aid (e.g., a scooter). Your questions are paraphrased and answered as follows:

- Q1. Is there a limit to the size or capacity for the motor of a wheelchair or other battery-powered mobility aid?
- A1. No. Unless the motor has a hazardous material component that is subject to the HMR, there is not a size or capacity limit for the motor of a wheelchair or other battery-powered mobility aids carried by aircraft passengers or crewmembers under the HMR.
- Q2. What is the "size" limit for a lithium ion battery that powers a wheelchair or other mobility aid when it is carried in checked baggage or carry-on baggage, and when carried as a spare?
- A2. We preface our response by noting that lithium batteries that are not packed with or contained in equipment such as a wheelchair are not allowed in checked baggage. With respect to your question; in general, the HMR do not limit the size of a lithium ion battery installed in a wheelchair or other mobility aid carried aboard an aircraft as checked baggage. See § 175.10(a)(17).

However, where a wheelchair or mobility aid is designed to allow the removal of the lithium ion battery by the user, the battery must be removed and carried aboard the aircraft in carry-on baggage only. Under this condition, the lithium ion battery may not exceed 300 watt-hours (Wh); and a maximum of one spare lithium ion battery not exceeding 300 Wh or two spares each not exceeding 160 Wh each may be carried in carry-on baggage only (see § 175.10(a)(17)(v)).

I hope this answers your inquiry. If you need additional assistance, please contact this Office again.

Sincerely,



Dirk Der Kinderen
Chief, Standards Development Branch
Standards and Rulemaking Division

=====JOSEPH TSIYONI =====

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Mitchell
§ 173.185
Batteries
16-0006

December 17, 2015

Mr. Duane Pfund
International Standard Coordinator
Standard and Rules Division, U.S. Department of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20590

Re: **A. HANDICAP SCOOTER: MOTOR CAPACITY**
B. LITHIUM BATTERY CAPACIST HELD SEPARATELY (Not on scooter)

Dear Mr. Pfund:

May I ask you to please clarify the rules about the size/capacity of motor and battery allowed on a handicap or any scooter delivered in an aircraft.

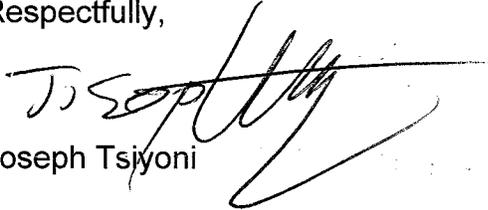
- A. A MOTOR ON A HANDICAP SCOOTER: is there any limit on capacity, e.g. 350W?
- B. IF A Lithium Battery is carried to the cabin, or checked in:
 - Since there is no limit if the battery is attached to the scooter, protected from turn-on:
 - i. What is the capacity limit (ELC, and/or WATT) if any if carried to the cabin of an aircraft?
 - ii. What is the capacity limit (ELC, and/or WATT) if any if the battery is checked in?

(Normally that would be for a spare battery, e.g. **16Ah.**, which is more than 25 **ELC**, or **300 WH.**

Please kindly as soon as possible.

I appreciate your help and thank you very much for quick response.

Respectfully,


Joseph Tsiyoni