



Office of the Chairman

National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, D.C. 20594

NOV 25 2008

The Honorable Carl T. Johnson
Administrator
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
East Building, 2nd Floor, PH
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Thank you for the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration's (PHMSA's) March 28, 2008, response, signed by Ms. Stacey L. Gerard, Assistant Administrator/Chief Safety Officer, to the National Transportation Safety Board regarding Safety Recommendations A-08-1 and -2, stated below. These recommendations were issued to PHMSA as a result of the Safety Board's concerns about the increasing number of incidents documented by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) involving overheating and fires initiated by secondary (rechargeable) lithium batteries.

A-08-1

In collaboration with air carriers, manufacturers of lithium batteries and electronic devices, air travel associations, and other appropriate government and private organizations, establish a process to ensure wider, highly visible, and continuous dissemination of guidance and information to the air-traveling public, including flight crews, about the safe carriage of secondary (rechargeable) lithium batteries or electronic devices containing these batteries on board passenger aircraft.

A-08-2

In collaboration with air carriers, manufacturers of lithium batteries and electronic devices, air travel associations, and other appropriate government and private organizations, establish a process to periodically measure the effectiveness of your efforts to educate the air-traveling public, including flight crews, about the safe carriage of secondary (rechargeable) lithium batteries or electronic devices containing these batteries on board passenger aircraft.

In its letter, PHMSA described an extensive program to make the public aware of the dangers posed by lithium batteries transported by air, including when the batteries are transported inside electronic devices; the program involves airlines, airline associations, other government agencies, manufacturers and associations related to lithium batteries and devices that use lithium batteries, general media, and media that specifically appeals to users of devices that

rely on lithium batteries. As outlined, the program may satisfy the intent of Safety Recommendation A-08-1. In addition, the Safety Board believes that the activities being taken in response to Safety Recommendation A-08-2, described in the next paragraph, will provide a reliable basis after some time to determine whether the activities being taken in response to Safety Recommendation A-08-1 have fully achieved the intent of informing flight crews and the public of the dangers of lithium batteries transported by air. Pending completion of these actions and our review of documentation that the program has succeeded in effectively informing the public about this issue, Safety Recommendation A-08-1 is classified "Open—Acceptable Response."

Regarding Safety Recommendation A-08-2, PHMSA has requested available metrics for related actions being taken by collaborating organizations, and PHMSA is coordinating with the FAA to continually assess data from incidents involving lithium batteries in order to evaluate changes in passenger behavior. The Safety Board notes that PHMSA is working to capture information about passenger behaviors independent of incidents and is developing a method to evaluate the effectiveness of efforts to educate flight crews of the dangers of lithium batteries transported by air. Currently, PHMSA compiles monthly status reports to track and measure the effectiveness of its public education campaign about lithium batteries. Pending completion of the effort to measure the effectiveness of the public awareness program on the dangers of lithium batteries in air transportation, Safety Recommendation A-08-2 is classified "Open—Acceptable Response."

Sincerely,



Mark V. Rosenker
Acting Chairman

cc: Ms. Linda Lawson, Director
Office of Safety, Energy, and Environment
Office of Transportation Policy