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IEC 62281

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# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



**Safety of primary and secondary lithium cells and batteries during transport**

INTERNATIONAL  
ELECTROTECHNICAL  
COMMISSION

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## INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

# SAFETY OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY LITHIUM CELLS AND BATTERIES DURING TRANSPORT

### FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 62281 has been prepared jointly by IEC technical committee 35: Primary cells and batteries and by subcommittee 21A: Secondary cells and batteries containing alkaline or other non-acid electrolytes, of IEC technical committee 21: Secondary cells and batteries.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition, published in 2004, and constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

- a) distinction between small and large cell or battery by gross mass rather than by lithium content or Watt-hour rating ("nominal" energy);
- b) combination of the no mass loss (NM) and no leakage (NL) criteria into one criteria (NL);
- c) extension of an acceptable mass loss of 0,2 % from 5 g to 75 g mass of a cell or battery;
- d) reduction of large batteries to be tested under tests T-1 to T-5 and T-8 from 4 to 2 samples;

- e) reduction of test samples required for small battery assemblies (5.2.2);
- f) reduction of the vibration amplitude to 2 g for large batteries in T-3 vibration test method;
- g) replacement of the impact test by the crush test for prismatic, pouch, button, and coin cells as well as cylindrical cells with no more than 20 mm in diameter.

The text of this standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
35/1303/FDIS	35/1307/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC web site under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the publication will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

A bilingual version of this standard may be issued at a later date.

**IMPORTANT – The 'colour inside' logo on the cover page of this publication indicates that it contains colours which are considered to be useful for the correct understanding of its contents. Users should therefore print this document using a colour printer.**

## INTRODUCTION

Primary lithium cells and batteries were first introduced in military applications in the 1970s. At that time, little commercial interest and no industrial standards existed. Consequently, the United Nations (UN) Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, although usually referring to industrial standards for testing and criteria, introduced a sub-section in the Manual of tests and criteria concerning safety tests relevant to transport of primary lithium cells and batteries. Meanwhile, commercial interest in primary and secondary (rechargeable) lithium cells and batteries has grown and several industrial standards exist. However, the existing IEC standards are manifold, not completely harmonized, and not necessarily relevant to transport. They are not suitable to be used as a source of reference in the UN Model Regulations. Therefore this group safety standard has been prepared to harmonize the tests and requirements relevant to transport.

This International Standard applies to primary and secondary (rechargeable) lithium cells and batteries containing lithium in any chemical form: lithium metal, lithium alloy or lithium-ion. Lithium-metal and lithium alloy primary electrochemical systems use metallic lithium and lithium alloy, respectively, as the negative electrode. Lithium-ion secondary electrochemical systems use intercalation compounds (intercalated lithium exists in an ionic or quasi-atomic form within the lattice of the electrode material) in the positive and in the negative electrodes.

This International Standard also applies to lithium polymer cells and batteries, which are considered either as primary lithium-metal cells and batteries or as secondary lithium-ion cells and batteries, depending on the nature of the material used in the negative electrode.

The history of transporting primary and secondary lithium cells and batteries is worth noting. Since the 1970s, over ten billion primary lithium cells and batteries have been transported, and since the early 1990s, over one billion secondary (rechargeable) lithium cells and batteries utilizing a lithium-ion system have been transported. As the number of primary and secondary lithium cells and batteries to be transported is increasing, it is appropriate to also include in this standard the safety testing of packaging used for the transportation of these products.

This International Standard specifically addresses the safety of primary and secondary lithium cells and batteries during transport and also the safety of the packaging used.

The UN Manual of Tests and Criteria [1]<sup>1</sup> distinguishes between lithium metal and lithium alloy cells and batteries on the one hand, and lithium ion and lithium polymer cells and batteries on the other hand. While it defines that lithium metal and lithium alloy cells and batteries can be either primary (non-rechargeable) or rechargeable, it always considers lithium ion cells and batteries as rechargeable. However, test methods in the UN Manual of Tests and Criteria are the same for both secondary lithium metal and lithium alloy cells and batteries and lithium ion and lithium polymer cells and batteries. The concept is only needed to distinguish between small and large battery assemblies. Battery assemblies assembled from (primary or secondary) lithium metal and lithium alloy batteries are distinguished by the aggregate lithium content of all anodes (measured in grams), while battery assemblies assembled from lithium ion or lithium polymer batteries are distinguished by their “nominal” energy (measured in Watt-hours).

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<sup>1</sup> Numbers in square brackets refer to the Bibliography

## SAFETY OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY LITHIUM CELLS AND BATTERIES DURING TRANSPORT

### 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies test methods and requirements for primary and secondary (rechargeable) lithium cells and batteries to ensure their safety during transport other than for recycling or disposal. Requirements specified in this standard do not apply in those cases where special provisions given in the relevant regulations, listed in 7.3, provide exemptions.

NOTE Different standards may apply for lithium-ion traction battery systems used for electrically propelled road vehicles.

### 2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 61960, *Secondary cells and batteries containing alkaline or other non-acid electrolytes – Secondary lithium cells and batteries for portable applications*

IEC 62133, *Secondary cells and batteries containing alkaline or other non-acid electrolytes – Safety requirements for portable sealed secondary cells, and for batteries made from them, for use in portable applications*

IEC 62660-1, *Secondary lithium-ion cells for the propulsion of electric road vehicles – Part 1: Performance testing*