

US – Transportation of lithium batteries (new)

“Korea, Japan, Israel and China raised concerns about a US measure imposing specific packaging and labelling conditions for lithium batteries to enhance safety and reduce risks of fire during their transportation, including transport by aircraft ([G/TBT/N/USA/518](#)). Members said that this measure was not consistent with existing international standards; that it would increase the production costs of lithium batteries – leading to higher prices of products using such batteries for consumers; and, that there could be discriminatory effect in that US producers normally transported batteries over land while importers relied more heavily on air transport.

The US said that this measure was taken for security and safety reasons; they noted that when on fire, lithium batteries were difficult to extinguish – this presented a significant hazard during transportation, particularly in the context of air travel. The US said its Department of Transportation continued to discuss these issues with its counterparts in international forums. An information session had been organised at the beginning of March 2010 and the US would review all comments before finalising this measure, which was based on a regulation published in 2009..”

Fuente: http://www.wto.org/spanish/news_s/news10_s/tbt_24mar10_s.htm