



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Pipeline and Hazardous  
Materials Safety  
Administration**

**November 21, 2025**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

DOT-SP 20910  
(FIFTH REVISION)

**EXPIRATION DATE: 2029-10-31**

(FOR RENEWAL, SEE 49 CFR 107.109)

1. GRANTEE: Cellblock FCS, LLC  
Standish, ME
2. PURPOSE AND LIMITATIONS:
  - a. This special permit authorizes the manufacture, mark, sale, and use of UN 4G packaging to be used in combination with an internally-fitted, non-metallic textile envelope constructed of thermally-resistant composite material for the transportation of damaged or defective lithium ion cells and batteries, including cells or batteries contained in or packed with equipment, without being subject to certain hazard communication requirements. This special permit provides no relief from the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR) other than as specifically stated herein. The most recent revision supersedes all previous revisions.
  - b. The safety analyses performed in development of this special permit only considered the hazards and risks associated with transportation in commerce. The safety analyses did not consider the hazards and risks associated with consumer use, use as a component of a transport vehicle or other device, or other uses not associated with transportation in commerce.
  - c. In accordance with 49 CFR 107.107(a), party status may not be granted to a manufacturing special permit. These packagings may be used in accordance with 49 CFR 173.22a.
3. REGULATORY SYSTEM AFFECTED: 49 CFR Parts 106, 107 and 171-180.
4. REGULATIONS FROM WHICH EXEMPTED: 49 CFR Subparts C through H of Part 172 in that shipping papers, marking, labeling, emergency response information, and training are not required for batteries and cells already excepted by § 173.185(c)(1)(i) or (iv); § 172.303(a) in that the package may be marked with the UN identification numbers

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even if the package does not contain the described hazardous material; and § 173.185(f) in that more than one lithium cell or battery per package and alternative packaging are authorized, as specified herein.

5. BASIS: This special permit is based on the application of Cellblock FCS, LLC dated October 27, 2025, submitted in accordance with § 107.109.
6. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (49 CFR 172.101):

Hazardous Material Description			
Proper Shipping Name	Hazard Class/ Division	Identification Number	Packing Group
Lithium ion batteries*	9	UN3480	N/A
Lithium ion batteries contained in equipment*	9	UN3481	N/A
Lithium ion batteries packed with equipment*	9	UN3481	N/A

\*Only damaged or defective lithium ion cells or batteries and those cells or batteries contained in or packed with equipment with a Watt-hour rating not exceeding that specified in § 173.185(c)(1)(i) or (iv) may be transported under the terms of this special permit. For transportation by cargo vessel, only lithium ion cells or batteries and equipment containing these cells or batteries with a Watt-hour rating conforming to § 173.185(c)(1)(i) may be transported under the terms of this special permit.

7. SAFETY CONTROL MEASURES:

a. OPERATIONAL CONTROLS:

- (1) Damaged or defective lithium cells and batteries, and lithium cells or batteries contained in equipment or packed with equipment must have originally met the requirements for testing in accordance with the edition of the UN Manual of Tests and Criteria authorized at the time of testing, prior to becoming damaged or defective.
- (2) Packages must be stored away from heat.
- (3) Lithium ion cells and batteries must be secured and protected against short circuits while the packages are in transportation.

(4) Cells or batteries contained in or packed with equipment must be protected against short circuits (unless the equipment affords that protection) and unintentional activation.

(5) Transportation by cargo vessel is only permitted when motor vehicle shipments are not possible.

(6) Damaged or defective cells or batteries must have the state of charge reduced to the extent possible.

b. PACKAGING:

(1) INNER PACKAGING: Damaged or defective cells or batteries, or those contained in or packed with equipment must be individually packed in a non-metallic textile envelope constructed of thermally-resistant composite material that completely encloses each cell, battery, or piece of equipment.

(2) OUTER PACKAGING:

(i) The internally-fitted, inner packaging containing the damaged or defective cells or batteries (including when contained in or packed with equipment) must be placed in a UN 4G packaging that is tested and certified as meeting the Packing Group I performance level.

(ii) The void space between the inner and outer packagings must be filled with non-metallic, non-conductive cushioning material to prevent movement during transportation.

(iii) Except when lithium cells or batteries are packed with, or contained in, equipment, each package must not exceed 30 kg (66 pounds) gross weight.

(iv) The aggregate Watt-hour rating of cells and batteries per a single outer packaging may not exceed 185 Wh per test details on the envelope which are on file with the Office of Hazardous Materials Safety.

(v) For leaking cells or batteries, the outer packaging must be leak-proof to prevent the potential release of electrolyte.

c. MARKING:

(1) Each package covered under the terms of this special permit must be durably and legibly marked and displayed on a background of contrasting color with the following:

(i) "DOT-SP 20910".

(ii) The marking required by § 173.185(c)(1)(iii) or (iv), as appropriate.

(iii) The marking required by § 173.185(c)(3). "UN3480" and "UN3481" must be indicated on the marking.

(iv) "DAMAGED/DEFECTIVE LITHIUM ION BATTERY".

(2) Each package may be marked with a QR code where the most recent revision of the special permit can be viewed or downloaded.

d. Detailed closure, packing, and shipping instructions must be provided to individuals preparing shipments under the terms of the special permit. Persons offering packages for transportation must comply with the closure, packing, and shipping instructions accompanying the packaging.

8. SPECIAL PROVISIONS:

a. In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph (b) of § 173.22a, persons may use the packaging authorized by this special permit for the transportation of the hazardous materials specified in paragraph 6, only in conformance with the terms of this special permit.

b. A person who is not a holder of this special permit, but receives a package covered by this special permit, may reoffer it for transportation provided no modification or change is made to the package and it is offered for transportation in conformance with this special permit and the HMR.

c. A current copy of this special permit must be maintained at each facility where the package is offered or reoffered for transportation.

d. Each packaging manufactured under the authority of this special permit must be either (1) marked with the name of the manufacturer and location (city and state) of the facility at which it is manufactured or (2) marked with a registration symbol designated by the Office of Hazardous Materials Safety for a specific manufacturing facility.

e. A current copy of this special permit must be maintained at each facility where the packaging is manufactured under this special permit. It must be made available to a DOT representative upon request.

9. MODES OF TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZED: Motor vehicle, rail freight, and cargo vessel.

10. MODAL REQUIREMENTS:

- a. A current copy of this special permit must be carried aboard each cargo vessel.
- b. A current copy of this special permit must be carried aboard each motor vehicle used to transport packages covered by this special permit unless the package is marked in accordance with paragraph 7.c.(2).

11. COMPLIANCE: Failure by a person to comply with any of the following may result in suspension or revocation of this special permit and penalties prescribed by the Federal hazardous materials transportation law, 49 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.:

- o All terms and conditions prescribed in this special permit and the Hazardous Materials Regulations, 49 CFR Parts 171-180.
- o Persons operating under the terms of this special permit must comply with the security plan requirement in Subpart I of Part 172 of the HMR, when applicable.
- o Registration required by § 107.601 et seq., when applicable.

Each “Hazmat employee”, as defined in § 171.8, who performs a function subject to this special permit must receive training on the requirements and conditions of this special permit.

No person may use or apply this special permit, including display of its number, when this special permit has expired or is otherwise no longer in effect.

Under Title VII of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)—“The Hazardous Materials Safety and Security Reauthorization Act of 2005” (Pub. L. 109-59), 119 Stat. 1144 (August 10, 2005), amended the Federal hazardous materials transportation law by changing the term “exemption” to “special permit” and authorizes a special permit to be granted up to two years for new special permits and up to four years for renewals.

12. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Shipments or operations conducted under this special permit are subject to the Hazardous Materials Incident Reporting requirements specified in 49 CFR §§ 171.15 - Immediate notice of certain hazardous materials incidents, and 171.16 - Detailed hazardous materials incident reports. In addition, the grantee(s) of this

special permit must notify the Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety, in writing, of any incident involving a package, shipment or operation conducted under terms of this special permit.

Issued in Washington, D.C.:



for William Quade

Acting Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety

Address all inquiries to: Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, East Building PHH-13, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, Southeast, Washington, D.C. 20590.

Copies of this special permit may be obtained by accessing the Hazardous Materials Safety Homepage at <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/approvals-and-permits/hazmat/special-permits-search>. Photo reproductions and legible reductions of this special permit are permitted. Any alteration of this special permit is prohibited.

PO: ae/NICKS