TRANSPORT OF LITHIUM BATTERIES AS CARGO BY AIR

1. This is to inform all FSM Airports, Air Service and Cargo Providers, FSM Postal Offices and relevant cargo service providers of a recent ICAO Electronic Bulletin (EB2015/48) regarding US FAA’s lithium battery test results which suggests a fire involving high-density package of lithium ion batteries may exceed the capability of aircraft cargo fire protection system. Reciprocate concerns have been raised during many ICAO meetings and further discussion is also anticipated at the twenty-fifth meeting of the Dangerous Goods Panel meeting in October, 2015 in Montreal.

2. In the interim, two major airframe manufacturers (Airbus SAS and the Boeing Company) have issued information to operators on the subject matter. Both manufactures support prohibiting the carriage high-density package of lithium ion batteries on passenger aircraft until such time as safer methods of transport are implemented.

3. State Airports, Air Service and Cargo Provider and Postal Offices are encouraged to ensure their operation perform effective risk assessments before choosing to transport lithium batteries as cargo by air until such time as safer methods of transport are implemented.

4. For more information, you are invited to contact FSM DCA at (691) 320-2865.