Navigating SingPost's Shipping Restrictions:

A Guide for Senders



Ensure your shipments comply with regulations.

Be safe and secure to avoid unnecessary delays

Shipping Smart with SingPost: Know the Restrictions

SingPost is committed to reliable postal services. To ensure your shipments go smoothly, be aware of shipping regulations for both local and international destinations. These rules are in place for safety and compliance.

This document provides a summary of general prohibitions and restrictions. Please remember that regulations are subject to change. For more information regarding post prohibitions, please refer to:

- SingPost Country Specific Requirements
- Other country-specific regulations from the intended recipient's country.
- Postal Services Act - Singapore

Disclaimer: SingPost reference guides are not exhaustive. Customers are advised to refer to country specific regulations from the country of import and/or export.

1: Customs Prohibitions

Customs regulations vary significantly between countries. Prohibited goods may include dutiable items, controlled substances, and other items restricted by national laws.

To avoid seizures and fines, it is crucial to check the import and export regulations of both the sending and receiving countries.

- Singapore Customs website for importing and exporting of goods.
- Health Science Authority guidance on Tobacco , Medical and Medicinal products, etc.
- ICA website for prohibited, controlled, and dutiable goods .
- Import and Export of plants or plant products

Disclaimer: Reference guides are not exhaustive. Customers are advised to refer to Singapore and Overseas (intended destination country) regulatory agencies governing the products or products.

Example: E-cigarettes and e-vaporisers (e-vapes) are often prohibited, even if they comply with postal and IATA dangerous goods regulations for post. Airport cargo security may also impose further restrictions.

2: Aircraft Safety and Security Prohibitions

- Airlines and countries have specific restrictions on items allowed on aircraft for safety and security reasons. *Items sent may be subjected to returns due to these regulations.* For Singapore, you may refer to the Police Regulatory Department.

Disclaimer: Reference guides are not exhaustive. Customers are advised to refer to other regulatory agencies governing the products or items for import and export (eg. NEA, Npark, CAAS, HSA, etc.).

3: Dangerous Goods Prohibitions

- SingPost adheres to IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations (DGR). Only specific dangerous goods are accepted, and they are restricted to the following:

Only the following Dangerous Goods are accepted:

(i) Lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries (UN 3481) **contained** in equipment (ECLB): *in compliance of the following conditions,*

- Maximum of 4 cells or 2 batteries per package.*(**eg. 1 equipment with 2 Li-Ion or 2 equipment with 1 Li-Ion each**)*
- Cell rating: ≤ 20Wh; Battery rating: ≤ 100Wh.
- Strong outer packaging
- No faulty or defective batteries or equipment.

(ii) Lithium-metal (Li-Metal) batteries (UN 3091) **contained** in equipment (ECLB):

- Maximum of 4 cells or 2 batteries per package.*(**eg. 1 equipment with 2 Li-Metal or 2 equipment with 1Li-Metal each**)*
- Cell rating: ≤ 1g; Battery rating: ≤ 2g
- Strong outer packaging
- No faulty or defective batteries or equipment

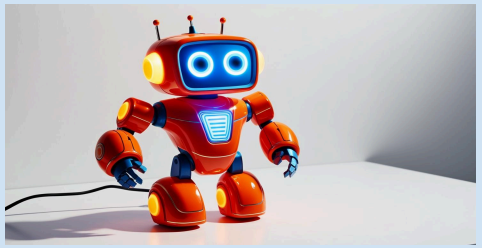
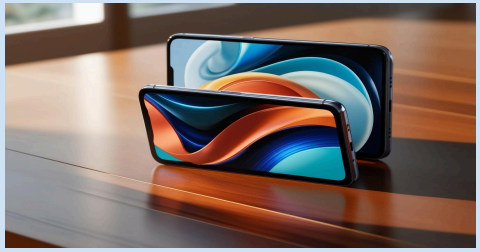
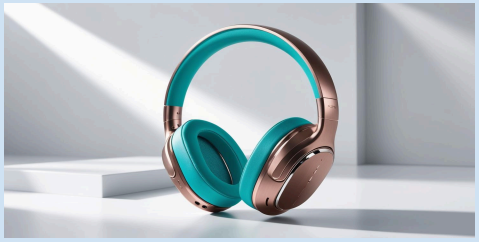
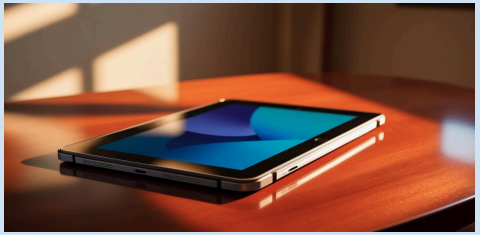
(iii) Infectious substances, Category B (UN 3373) and dry ice (UN 1845) as a refrigerant, packed according to IATA Packing Instructions 650 and 954.**

(iv) Patient specimens (reference IATA DGR section 3.6.2.1.4) for research, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention.

****Important Notes****

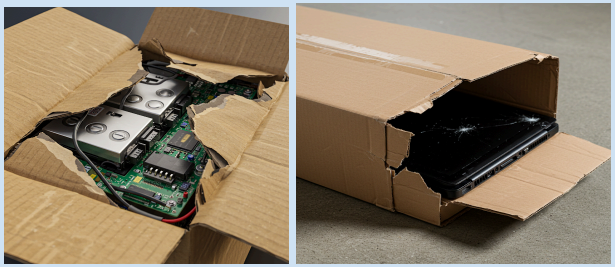
- ☐ Items (iii) and (iv) are only accepted at designated SingPost offices in Singapore under strict control.
- ☐ All other dangerous goods are prohibited including equipment containing Sodium-Ion battery
- ☐ Other equipment packed (not contained with lithium batteries or standalone lithium batteries, such as powerbanks) will not be accepted.

Examples of **acceptable** equipment with Lithium Battery only.

Video Camera	Walkie-talkie	GPS Device	Electronic Toy
			
Digital Camera	**Scanner**	**Mobile Phone**	**MP3 player**
			
Wireless Headset	**Laptop**	**Shaver**	**Electric toothbrush**
			
PowerDrill(w/o spare battery)	**Tablet/PC**	**Boombox/speaker**	**Smart Watch**
			

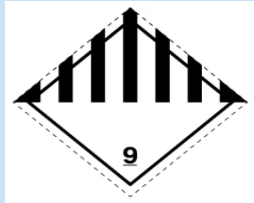
** For clarity, wireless headphones may be accepted but wireless earbuds are not accepted.

Examples of **unacceptable** Lithium/Sodium Battery(with/without installed in an Equipment)

Power Bank	Wireless Earbuds	E-Scooter
		
Unicycle	**Spare lithium Cells**	**Spare Lithium Battery**
		
Faulty / Damage Equipment with Lithium Battery	**Crushed Packaging with lithium battery equipments**	**Shipments bearing the Battery mark**
		

Other Dangerous Goods (DG) not accepted

Class 1 Dangerous Goods (**Explosives**)	**Class 2** Dangerous Goods **(Gasses)**	**Class 3** Dangerous Goods **(Liquid)**
 	    	 
Class 4 Dangerous Goods **(Solids)**	**Class 5** Dangerous Goods **(Oxidizer & Peroxides)**	**Class 6** Dangerous Goods **(Toxics and Infectious Substances)**
   	  	  
Class 7 Dangerous Goods **(Radioactive)**	**Class 8** Dangerous Goods **(Corrosive)**	**Class 9** Dangerous Goods **(Lithium/Sodium**

		Battery and Miscellaneous)
		
		
 		 

Items listed are for illustration only and not a complete list.

Preventing Undeclared or Hidden Dangerous Goods Incidents

Protect yourself and your surroundings. Understand the risks of undeclared goods or Hidden Dangerous goods and their impact on health, safety, property, and the environment.



Solvent based paint, adhesives, polishes, aerosols, bleach, corrosive oven or drain cleaners, matches are some examples of dangerous goods that are required to comply with regulations when sent by Air.

Other SingPost Prohibitions

Prohibited Goods



Live Goods

(Living animals and plants) - E.g. bees, leeches, silkworms, orchids and roses



Perishable Goods

(Foodstuff) - E.g. meat, fish, vegetable and fruits



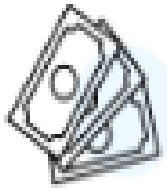
Narcotics and psychotropic substances



Obscene or immoral articles/materials



All Liquids*



Coins, bank notes and other valuables



Articles which are or are deemed to be illegal to import in the destination country



Vaporises and shisha molasses

*Non-Dangerous Goods liquids are subjected to prior approvals. provision of MSDS and general packing requirements may be required.

**SingPost will not be liable any claims due to items held or detained by customs or airlines.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. What products are considered dangerous goods for sending in the international mail network?

Answer: Articles or substances capable of posing a risk to health, safety, property or the environment are classified as dangerous goods. These include gases, flammable liquids, corrosive and other miscellaneous items. Many everyday items such as lithium batteries, cleaning fluids and perfume are classified as dangerous goods.

Dangerous goods are forbidden in the mail or post, except for a few items (eg. laptop/smartphones powered by lithium battery). SingPost is permitted by the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) to send these items internationally by Air.

2. Who determines that these products are dangerous goods ?

*Answer : The **U**nited **N**ations **S**ub-**Co**mmittee of **E**xperts on the **T**ransport of **D**angerous **G**oods (UN-SCoETDG) develops recommended procedures for the transport of all types of dangerous goods.*

*The **I**nternational **C**ivil **A**viation **O**rganization (ICAO) used these recommendations as a basis for developing the regulations for safe transport of dangerous goods by Airmail. (Please note that the items cannot be accepted even as sea mail.)*

3. What is the difference between dangerous goods and prohibited items?

Answer: Dangerous goods are items that could be harmful (like explosives or flammable liquids). Prohibited items are a broader category that includes dangerous goods, but also other things like drugs, offensive materials, and valuables, based on international postal rules.

4. Can you send spray paint canisters in the mail?

*Answer: **No**, spray paint canisters are considered dangerous goods and are prohibited from being sent through postal services*

5. Can you send alcoholic beverages in the mail?

*Answer: **No**, alcoholic beverages are generally considered dangerous goods (depending on the alcohol content) and are prohibited from being sent through postal services.*

6. Can you send wireless earbuds

*Answer: **No**, Wireless earbuds are **not** classified as Lithium batteries contained in equipment by IATA due to the accompanying charging case*

7. Can you send PowerBank in mail ?

*Answer: **No**, it is because power banks are considered as standalone batteries and they are not contained in equipment.*

8. Are common household items restricted in international mail?

Answer: Yes, many household goods like aerosols, flammable liquids, adhesives, and corrosives are classified as dangerous and cannot be mailed internationally.

9. Can hoverboard and battery-powered electric vehicles be accepted and sent by Post?

*Answer : **No**, Hoverboard and battery-powered vehicles usually exceed the Watt-hour(WH) rating of more than 100WH. Any equipment contained in equipment with more than 100Wh rating will be not accepted in Post.*

10. Are electronic vapes allowed in international mail if they meet dangerous goods regulations for batteries?

*Answer : **No.** While the lithium battery in a vape might meet postal dangerous goods rules, the vape itself is typically prohibited by customs regulations in most countries including Singapore .*

11. What happens when dangerous items are discovered in international mail?

Answer: The items will be taken out of the mail system and dealt with as per the country's regulations.

12. Can you send equipment containing Sodium batteries (installed in)?

*Answer: **No**. Currently regulation does not allow any sodium battery equipment containing sodium batteries to be sent by Post.*

13. Why can I take a power bank on a plane as a passenger but not mail it?

*Answer: While passengers can carry power banks with certain restrictions, postal regulations by **U**niversal **P**ostal **U**nion (UPU) prohibit them due to concerns about potential hazards during mail handling and transportation. Airline safety protocols for passengers differ from the automated processes of postal systems. Carriage of Dangerous Goods in aircraft(by Post, passenger and Cargo) is mandated by ICAO and UPU regulations.*

14. Lithium cell vs. lithium battery - what's the difference?

Answer : A lithium cell is a single power unit. A lithium battery is two or more of these cells connected. For shipping rules, a single-cell battery (eg. AAA battery) is considered a cell.

- You may refer to the full details in the IATA guidance document on shipping lithium/sodium batteries. (click here for reference material)

15. What are the conditions for transporting lithium batteries by Post?

Answer: Lithium batteries can be mailed *when **installed** in equipment* and meet these limits per package:

- No more than 4 lithium cells (each ≤ 20 Wh).
- No more than 2 lithium batteries (each ≤ 100 Wh) (eg. no more than 2 smartphones).
- For lithium metal: max. 1g per cell, 2g per battery.

They also need to be protected against short circuits and accidental activation, and the equipment/battery must be in good condition.