

discovered burning and smoking at a cargo sort facility. A subsequent investigation revealed that the burning initiated in a printed circuit board, with the source of energy being a battery within the device.

Another example of a condition of a component in circuitry connected to a battery may become heated to a point where combustion is initiated in the component itself, or in near-by combustible materials, even when the device functions normally is a properly operating, high-intensity flashlight used by scuba divers. Such devices, packed in checked baggage and unintentionally activated (i.e., by movement of the on/off switch to the "on" position), have started fires in passenger baggage.

Airline passengers and persons who offer such electrical devices for transportation as carry on baggage, checked baggage, or as cargo, are responsible for assuring that appropriate means are taken to protect against dangerous levels of heat from inadvertent activation or short-circuit of the electrical device in transportation. Individuals who carry any battery-powered electrical device in their luggage should take care not to pack it in a manner that may lead to a short-circuit by contact with keys or other metallic articles, or its inadvertent activation while in transportation. To address this potential risk, the HMR contains an overriding provision in § 173.21, Forbidden materials and packages. Materials forbidden by § 173.21 may not be offered for transportation, or transported in commerce. This section extends the forbidden designation beyond materials specifically identified in the Hazardous Materials Table or elsewhere in the HMR, to various additional general categories including:

"Electrical devices which are likely to create sparks or generate a dangerous quantity of heat, unless packaged in a manner which precludes such an occurrence."

Any electrical device, even one not otherwise subject to the HMR (either by

specific exception from the HMR, or because the device and its power source contains no material meeting the definition of a hazardous material), is forbidden from being offered for transportation, or transported, if the device is likely to produce sparks or a dangerous quantity of heat.

III. Reminder to Offerers and Transporters

Any persons who offers or transports a battery or an electrical device with an installed battery, including power sources, lights or torches, power tools, and other related articles are encouraged to carefully review this guidance, to examine all of their procedures, and where necessary, to take measures to prevent potential incidents in transportation. While evaluating whether such devices are likely to produce sparks or generate a dangerous quantity of heat, environmental conditions normally encountered in transportation must be taken into account, including temperature, humidity, vibration, impacts from rough handling and other relevant factors. In addition, the possibility of product manufacturing variations such as contamination, spacings, and loose parts should be taken into account.

Persons are reminded that the offering for transportation of any forbidden material in violation of the HMR subjects the offerer to enforcement action, including, but not limited to, significant civil penalties and appropriate judicial remedies. Furthermore, a willful violation of the HMR, or the reckless offering of a material for transportation in violation of the HMR, is subject to criminal penalties of up to 5 years in prison and/or fines.

Issued in Washington, DC, on June 28, 1999.

Alan I. Roberts,

Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety.

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UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Culturally Significant Objects Imported for Exhibition Determinations: "Egyptian Art in The Age of the Pyramids"

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following determinations: Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Act of October 19, 1965 (79 Stat. 985, 22 U.S.C. 2459), Executive Order 12047 of March 27, 1978 (43 FR 13359, March 29, 1978), and Delegation Order No. 85-5 of June 27, 1985 (50 FR 27393, July 2, 1985). I hereby determine that the additional cultural objects to be included in the "Egyptian Art in The Age of the Pyramids," imported from abroad for temporary exhibition in the United States are for exhibition without profit within the United States, are of cultural significance. These objects are imported pursuant to loan agreements with a foreign lender. I also determine that the exhibition or display of the listed objects at the Metropolitan Museum of Art from September 13, 1999 to January 9, 2000 is in the national interest. Public Notice of these Determinations is ordered to be published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For a copy of the list of exhibit objects or other information, please contact Carol Epstein, Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, 202/619-6981. The address is Room 700 U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20547-0001.

Dated: June 29, 1999.

Les Jin,

General Counsel.

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