

## **DG = Dangerous Goods? Are All Battery-Powered Products Classified as DG? A Complete Explanation**

When you quote freight rates, the freight forwarder suddenly replies:

**“This shipment is DG.”**

Your first reaction: Is it over? Will there be penalties? Can it still be shipped? Will the freight cost double?

In fact, in many cases, “DG” is not a “death sentence”, but a reminder that: **the transportation classification of your cargo needs to be reassessed.**

### **One Key Conclusion**

**DG generally refers to the Dangerous Goods transportation regulatory category.**

**When a freight forwarder says “this shipment is DG”, the essence is: your cargo, under transport regulations, must be**

handled according to dangerous goods (or restricted cargo) requirements.

This means documentation, packaging, declaration, and transport channels will all be subject to stricter compliance standards;

but it does NOT mean the shipment cannot be moved.

The key lies in:

which classification you fall under, which transport solution you choose, and whether your documentation is complete and compliant.

### **3–5 Key Points: The Real Meaning of DG and How to Respond**

**01 Key Point 1: “ Battery-powered ” ≠ necessarily DG, but lithium batteries easily trigger DG regulations**

Many “ battery-powered ” products are simply general cargo (general electronics), however **lithium batteries** are more sensitive in air freight due to safety risks, and therefore are more likely to fall under restricted cargo / dangerous goods regulations.

## **02 Key Point 2: When a freight forwarder says DG, what are they actually concerned about?**

- Whether your cargo contains lithium batteries and under which packing instruction / configuration
- Whether you can provide verifiable compliance documents (UN38.3 test summary/report, SDS, etc.)
- Whether your packaging and labeling are compliant with DG requirements
- Whether you are using the correct shipping channel (general cargo channels usually do not accept DG cargo)

### 03 What practical changes does DG classification bring?

- **Cost impact:** higher freight rates and additional handling / DG surcharges
- **Transit time impact:** longer approval process and potential warehouse / flight space delays
- **Stricter documentation requirements:** missing any required document may lead to cargo rejection
- **Channel restrictions:** must use DG-approved channels / designated airlines / certified DG warehouses

### 04 Key Point 4: How should you “professionally respond” to your freight forwarder without being passive?

Do NOT simply ask: “What should I do if it is DG?” Instead, provide all key shipment details so the forwarder can quickly determine the correct logistics solution:

- Battery type (Lithium-ion / Lithium metal)

- Battery capacity (Wh or mAh + voltage)
- Battery configuration (contained in equipment / packed with equipment / standalone batteries)
- Availability of UN38.3 and SDS documentation
- Preferred mode of transport (air / ocean / rail) and required transit time

## **05 Copy-Paste Template: “ DG Confirmation Message ” to Freight Forwarder**

Hello, this shipment is **[product name], containing lithium batteries:**

- contained in equipment**
- packed with equipment**
- standalone batteries**

**Battery specifications: \_\_ V / \_\_ mAh / \_\_ Wh**

**Battery model: \_\_\_\_\_**

Available documents:

UN38.3:

- available (summary/report)
- not available

SDS/MSDS:

- available
- not available

Please assist to confirm:

Should this shipment be classified under UN3480 or UN3481?

What are the recommended shipping solutions for air freight /  
ocean freight / rail freight respectively?

What additional documents or labeling requirements are needed?

Summary

If you were intimidated by the freight forwarder simply saying "DG",

in reality you are only one step away: clarifying the transportation classification and aligning the required documentation.

**You can send me your product link + battery specifications, and I can help you prepare a “shipment gap analysis checklist” free of charge: including your DG classification, suitable transport solution, and missing compliance documents — all clarified in one go.**