

RESEARCH LIST

Air and Sea Dangerous Goods Sources: 7 Compared by Code and Edition (2026)

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Air and sea dangerous goods rules come from two codes: the IMDG Code for sea and the ICAO Technical Instructions for air, with IATA's DGR as the airline manual. All three are sold. What is free is the guidance around them: change lists, national notices and the UN number you start from.

Each entry says who issues the source, its legal role, its current edition and where the free part ends.

EXHIBIT 1

How the sources compare

Mode	Resource and issuer	Role	Edition	Free or paid	Updates	Use it for
Road (ADR)	UN number database, Vektor Group	Reference data	2026.08.2, verified 25 Aug 2026	Free, CC BY 4.0	Versioned, with a verified date	UN number and road columns
Sea	IMDG Code, IMO	Mandatory under SOLAS, some parts recommendatory	2026 Edition, Amendment 43-26	Paid; overview free	Two year cycle	Sea requirements for packaged goods
Air	Technical Instructions, ICAO	Regulation under Annex 18	2025-2026, valid to 31 Dec 2026	Paid	Addenda and corrigenda listed on Doc 9284 page	The governing air text
Air	Dangerous Goods Regulations, IATA	Industry manual of airlines	68th edition, dated from 1 Jan 2027	Paid; changes list free	New edition every year	Airline acceptance
Air, UK	Dangerous goods pages, UK CAA	National authority guidance	Lithium changes from 27 Mar 2026	Free	Notices on the section page	UK operator duties
Sea, UK	MIN 715 (M), UK MCA	National authority notice	Covers 42-24, published 4 Dec 2024	Free	Expires 31 Dec 2026	National summary of an amendment

Mode	Resource and issuer	Role	Edition	Free or paid	Updates	Use it for
Sea and land	CTU Code, IMO/ILO/UNECE	Non-mandatory code of practice	2014	Download route stated by IMO	Not stated	Packing the cargo transport unit

EXHIBIT 2

Where to start

Your situation	Where to look
I have a UN number and a road leg to a port	Our UN number database (entry 1), then the next leg's code
What does the sea rule say for this substance?	The IMDG Code (entry 2), Dangerous Goods List in Volume 2
What is the governing air requirement?	The ICAO Technical Instructions (entry 3) and their addenda
Will an airline accept this package?	The IATA DGR (entry 4) and the operator's own variations
How does the UK apply the air or sea rules?	UK CAA (entry 5) for air, UK MCA notices (entry 6) for sea
How should the container be packed?	The CTU Code (entry 7)

Sources

Vektor Group, UN number database <https://vektorgroup.eu/un-number-database>

Vektor Group, UN number dataset (JSON) <https://vektorgroup.eu/data/adr-un-numbers.json>

IMO, the IMDG Code <https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Safety/Pages/DangerousGoods-default.aspx>

IMO e-Publications, dangerous goods topic <https://imo-epublications.org/content/topics/dangerous-goods>

IMO e-Publications, IMDG Code 2026 Edition <https://imo-epublications.org/content/books/9789280102376>

ICAO, Technical Instructions <https://www.icao.int/Dangerous-Goods/Technical-Instructions>

ICAO, Doc 9284 addenda and corrigenda <https://www.icao.int/publications/doc-series/doc-9284>

IATA, dangerous goods programme <https://www.iata.org/en/programs/cargo/dangerous-goods>

IATA, Dangerous Goods Regulations <https://www.iata.org/en/publications/dgr/>

IATA, significant changes to the 68th edition (PDF) <https://www.iata.org/contentassets/9dece0d6bb3c41d2bd95456b18215908/dgr-68-en-significant-changes.pdf>

UK CAA, dangerous goods resources <https://www.caa.co.uk/commercial-industry/airlines/dangerous-goods/dangerous-goods-resources/>

UK CAA, lithium cells, batteries and power banks <https://www.caa.co.uk/commercial-industry/airlines/dangerous-goods/changes-to-rules-on-the-carriage-of-lithium-cellsbatteries-and-power-banks/>

UK MCA, MIN 715 (M) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/min-715-m-cargoes-amendments-to-the-imsbc-code-07-23-and-imdg-code-42-24>

IMO, CTU Code <https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Safety/Pages/CTU-Code.aspx>

Meridian Land Ventures LLC, trading as Vektor Group, Tallinn, Estonia