



Shipping Dangerous Goods – Automotive batteries

DISCLAIMER: These materials are provided as guidance only to assist properly trained shippers. All shippers are responsible to ensure they are properly trained to ship dangerous goods. These materials do not alter, satisfy, or influence any regulatory requirements. The contents of these materials are subject to change and Purolator accepts no liability for loss or damage resulting from changes, errors, omissions, or misinterpretations of these materials.

Automotive batteries – UN2794, UN2795, UN2800

Automotive batteries, also known as lead-acid batteries, are used in almost all vehicles including automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, ATVs, construction equipment and many others. These batteries typically consist of lead plates suspended in sulphuric acid contained in a hard plastic case. The liquid acid, or sometimes alkali, is what makes these dangerous goods as this liquid is very corrosive and can cause serious injury. Most automotive batteries will be one of the three following types but check your products Safety Data Sheet (SDS) to determine which one applies.

UN2794 Batteries, Wet, Filled with acid, electric storage

UN2795 Batteries, Wet, Filled with alkali, electric storage

UN2800 Batteries, Wet, Non-spillable, electric storage

A key issue related to automotive batteries is the potential for spillage of the liquid acid or alkali. To minimize the potential for damage to the battery case, which can result in the release of the liquid, Purolator requires that **each battery be contained in its own individual box** or similar protective package.




Note that many **UN2800 batteries** are not subject to the TDG regulations as the liquid electrolyte in the battery is in a form, typically a gel, that is non-spillable. This means these batteries do not require the UN number, hazard labels or any other requirements. Please refer to TDGR Special Provision 39 to verify compliance.

The following table provides a summary of the requirements for tendering automotive batteries to Purolator for both air and ground transport.



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Automotive batteries – UN2794, UN2795

	Fully Regulated	500 kg exemption	Limited Quantity
Safety marks on package	UN number/ Proper Shipping Name/ Orientation arrows	UN number/ Proper Shipping Name/ Orientation arrows	“Limited Quantity” or “Ltd. Qty.”
UN specification package	Yes	No	No
Hazard label	Yes (Class 8) 	Yes (Class 8) 	Optional 
Shippers’ declaration	Yes	No	No
Allowable for air transport	Yes	No	No ¹
Other requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battery must be fully enclosed in a box or package¹ Air shipments must use air declaration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battery must be fully enclosed in a box or package¹ Max 30 kg per package 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battery must be fully enclosed in a box or package¹ Inner container volume within TDG Schedule 1 limits Max 30 kg per package
DG surcharge	Yes	Yes	No
Reference	Air: ICAO TI Ground: TDGR	TDGR Section 1.16	TDGR Section 1.17

¹ Purolator requirement/limitation