

Improvised Incendiary Devices

Scope: Americas
Applicability: All LOBs
Issued on: 06NOV24

Parcels Containing Improvised Incendiary Devices Catch Fire in Europe

July 2024: Multiple packages rigged with Improvised Incendiary Devices (IIDs) were shipped from a destination in the Baltics to multiple European airports with final destinations in the United States, according to German Domestic Intelligence (BfV). The parcels contained electronic consumer devices and containers with liquids and were likely introduced into the supply chain to cause intentional harm. According to the Wall Street Journal, “The incendiary devices are electric massagers implanted with a magnesium-based flammable substance.”

Two packages were transiting through the DHL network when they ignited, one in Leipzig, Germany and the other in Birmingham, England. The IID in Leipzig reportedly caught fire in a ULD and was quickly extinguished. There are conflicting reports regarding the IID in Birmingham, with some saying it caught fire in the warehouse and others saying it caught fire in a truck. Multiple sources have attributed the IIDs to Russian state actors and a larger plot to conduct sabotage operations around Europe and five individuals have been arrested in connection with the plot.

Several countries including the United States, Australia, and Canada, have implemented stricter rules for shipments from 55 countries. The updated ACAS (Air Cargo Advanced Screening) rules deal specifically with tendered cargo from shippers and forwarders who have Established Business Relationships and additional fields have been added to complete the ACAS submission.

*The ACAS program evaluates air shipments for threats to the Homeland and was born after the 2010 Al-Qa’ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) plot in which explosives were concealed in printer cartridges destined for the United States.

Key Takeaways:

- Aviation remains a top target for adversaries.
- Regulators will continue to apply increased security measures to manage the risks of potential aviation attacks.
- Lithium battery detection remains a challenge for current aviation screening measures.
- Report to leadership anything that looks suspicious.

Remember, every WFS employee is a Security Officer!!

