

RESPONSIBLE RECYCLING OF USED NICKEL CADMIUM BATTERIES

How to manage the environmental,
financial and reputational risks





BE PART OF AN INDUSTRY THAT IS SAFE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE

Implementing some basic requirements for the management of used vented nickel cadmium batteries (vented NiCd*) will help you to:

- manage your business risks
- avoid legal prosecution
- protect the health and safety of workers and the general public
- avoid environmental damage from spills or accidents
- protect your corporate reputation.

AM I AT RISK?

Are you and your suppliers/carriers/recyclers meeting all legal requirements for storage and transport?

Ask for evidence that they have all of the necessary approvals and licences. Transporters should be able to show you their Waste Transport Licence and have a Class 8 corrosive placard on their vehicle.

Vented NiCd batteries are a controlled waste. A Waste Storage Licence and a Waste Transport Licence are required in most states and territories if the amount of batteries exceeds a minimum amount. Check the legal requirements with your local environmental protection agency (contacts are provided on page 3).

Approval may also be required for each storage site from the local Council and/or environmental protection agency.

The interstate transport of vented NiCds requires:

- a consignment authorisation from the environmental protection agency in the destination state or territory
- a waste transport certificate from the agency in the originating state or territory and this must accompany the vented NiCd load in transit
- a permit/licence for the vehicle transporting the batteries.

Chain of Responsibility requirements under road transport laws now mean that everyone involved in the road transport supply chain - the consignor, consignee, packer, loader and receiver, as well as the driver and operator – can be held responsible for breaches of road laws and may be legally liable.

The export of vented NiCd batteries is regulated by the Australian Government under the Basel Convention and requires an Export Licence.

Do you and your carrier have adequate insurance?

If you don't have the right insurance you may not be covered in the case of an accident involving vented NiCd batteries.

Check that you or your carrier have:

- motor insurance with a dangerous goods extension
- public and products liability insurance.

Are you protecting the health and safety of your workers?

Make sure that you follow manufacturers' guidelines for safe handling and storage.

- Store in cool dry conditions.
- Use correct lifting procedures when moving batteries.
- Don't place metal objects on top of batteries.
- Don't allow sparks or flames near batteries.
- Make sure workers wear protective clothing.
- Clean up spills immediately.

For more information download a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) from one of the manufacturer's web sites.

* This guidance applies to vented nickel cadmium industrial batteries (excludes smaller handheld batteries)

MANAGE YOUR BUSINESS RISKS

Are the batteries packaged correctly?

Ensure that the batteries you receive or supply are packaged appropriately to meet legal requirements and best practice standards.

Batteries must be packed securely to:

- protect against damage and spills
- avoid the inconvenience and cost of batteries being rejected at the recycling facility.

Steel strapping is **not** acceptable, due to the potential risk of fire from short-circuits.

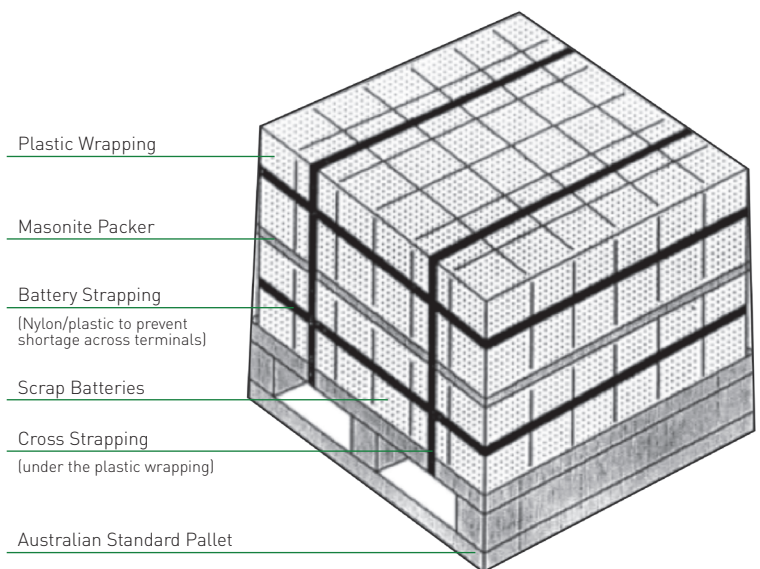
ABRI's comprehensive packaging standard for used batteries can be downloaded from www.batteryrecycling.org.au.



Are you managing all of your financial, legal and reputational risks?

If you accept cash payments from illegal exporters, you are exposing your company to unnecessary risks.

- Know where your batteries are going – they should not be exported.
- Ask for evidence of legal compliance and adequate insurance.



Contact relevant government agencies for more information on legal and environmental requirements for hazardous or controlled wastes

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| NSW | Office of Environment & Heritage | www.environment.nsw.gov.au |
| Victoria | Environment Protection Authority Victoria | www.epa.vic.gov.au |
| Queensland | Dept. Environment & Resource Management | www.derm.qld.gov.au |
| ACT | Dept. Environment, Climate Change, Energy & Water | www.environment.act.gov.au |
| Tasmania | Dept. Primary Industries, Water & Environment | www.environment.tas.gov.au |
| Western Australia | Dept. Environment & Conservation | www.dec.wa.gov.au |
| South Australia | Environment Protection Authority South Australia | www.epa.sa.gov.au |
| Northern Territory | Dept. Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts & Sport | www.nt.gov.au |
| Australian Government | Dept. Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population & Communities | www.environment.gov.au |

ABRI members include battery manufacturers, consumer electronics suppliers, recyclers, government agencies and environmental organisations.

ABRI MEMBERS SUPPORT RESPONSIBLE RECYCLING

AusBatt Recycling
Australian Refined Alloys Pty Ltd
Brisbane City Council
Bunnings Group Limited
Canon Australia
Century Yuasa Batteries Pty Ltd
Clean Up Australia
Close the Loop Ltd
Club Assist Pty Ltd
Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council
Exide Technologies
Hydromet Corporation Limited
Macintype Design
MRI (Aust) Pty Ltd
Office of Environment and Heritage
orbitas resource recovery
Planet Ark
Renewed Metal Technologies
R&J Batteries
Sanyo Oceania Pty Ltd
SITA Australia
Spectrum Brands
Supercharge Batteries
Sustainability Victoria
Toshiba (Australia) Pty Ltd

Australian Battery Recycling Initiative

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Visit BusinessRecycling.com.au to find local recycling options, for information and resources or to list a recycling service.



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