

# RESPONSIBLE RECYCLING OF USED LEAD ACID 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 lead acid batteries (ULAB\*) 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.

ULAB 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 ULAB 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 ULAB 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 ULAB 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 ULAB.

Check that you or your carrier have:

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

### 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 automotive and industrial lead acid 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.

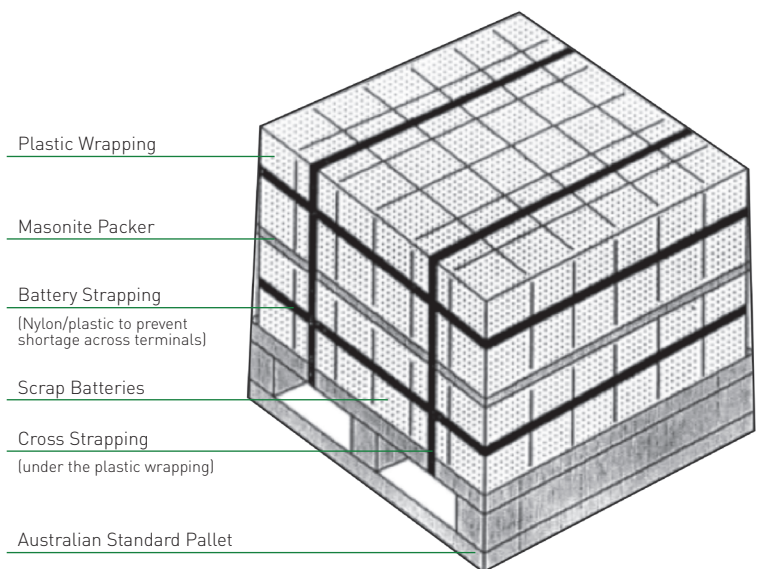
**ABRI's comprehensive packaging standard for used lead acid batteries can be downloaded from [www.batteryrecycling.org.au](http://www.batteryrecycling.org.au).**



## 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**

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

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

[www.batteryrecycling.org.au](http://www.batteryrecycling.org.au)

[info@batteryrecycling.org.au](mailto:info@batteryrecycling.org.au)

The information in this brochure is for information only. The Australian Battery Recycling Initiative does not accept liability to any person or organisation for the advice provided in the document or incorporated into it by reference. Readers need to seek their own independent legal and financial advice.



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Visit [BusinessRecycling.com.au](http://BusinessRecycling.com.au) to find local recycling options, for information and resources or to list a recycling service.



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[www.batteryrecycling.org.au](http://www.batteryrecycling.org.au)