



EPBA Position Paper on List of Waste Revision for Batteries Waste

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We appreciate the JRC's analysis and contributions to the Waste Framework Directive delivering a comprehensive insight into batteries and their chemistries. EPBA welcomes thorough research and studies that address environmental and safety aspects to exhibit more advanced sustainable energy solutions.

Although we understand the importance of JRC's findings and recommendations there are nevertheless several key points to highlight regarding the proposal of amending the List of Waste entries relevant to batteries. These include, but are not limited to the **increase of the financial burden** (proper waste segregation, safe handling and storage, cost management, transportation risk and overall environmental impact) **as well as to the administrative and bureaucratic burden** (related to the regulatory compliance).

Classifying a series of waste from the manufacture, supply and use of portable batteries as hazardous waste under the proposed revision of the List of Waste has a potential to significantly **increase the financial, administrative and bureaucratic burden** for manufacturers and recyclers and eventually, the European consumers. Hazardous waste classification brings along a complex and stringent set of compliance requirements, including detailed waste tracking, reporting, and documentation obligations at every stage of the product lifecycle—from production to disposal. This will also have an impact on the artwork of the battery packaging and the required labelling. Besides, manufacturers and recyclers would be required to implement more elaborate waste management systems, ensuring that their batteries are properly segregated, stored, and disposed of in accordance with the stricter protocols for hazardous materials. Such adaptations would demand specialised training for employees, the development of new safety measures, and the establishment of partnerships with certified hazardous waste handling companies – all with a related price tag. Moreover, companies would be required to apply for a special permit to store, handle and transport hazardous waste, which would not be only costly but require a lengthy process of up to 18 months.

Alongside that, the **reporting obligations would significantly increase**, demanding from manufacturers more detailed data submissions on the quantities and handling of hazardous waste, potentially involving more frequent audits and inspections by authorities. The increased paperwork, coupled with the potential need for additional licenses and certifications, would place a heavy strain on internal resources, particularly for smaller manufacturers, who may lack the infrastructure to efficiently manage the added complexity. This added layer of regulatory oversight could lead to delays, increased operational costs, and a slower time-to-market for new products, all of which would undermine the competitiveness of European manufacturers in an increasingly globalised marketplace.

Based on the additional bureaucratic and cost burden the legislation would cause, EPBA advocates for an economic impact assessment to evaluate the potential effects of the proposed changes to the

waste list revision for battery waste. Additionally, in light of the array of existing EU legislation already regulating battery manufacturing, usage and recycling, we ask that the ensemble be well-calibrated with each other.

Eventually, classifying portable battery waste as hazardous in the EU must not require manufacturers to **disclose the exact chemical composition** of their batteries to ensure proper handling, recycling, and waste management. Based on the industry input, EPBA is opposing such unintended consequences as this could lead to revealing sensitive proprietary information, with the related risk to their company secrets, potentially exposing it to competition or intellectual property theft. The requirement to disclose such information could undermine the confidentiality of their innovations, creating a significant concern for manufacturers who rely on maintaining competitive advantages in a rapidly evolving market.

Carole Bachmann,

Secretary General of EPBA

email: cbachmann@kellencompany.com

About EPBA

The European Portable Battery Association (EPBA) is the leading organization representing the interests of primary and rechargeable portable battery manufacturers, those industries using portable batteries in their products, and distributors of portable batteries active within the European Union and beyond. www.epbaeurope.net

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