

## Belgium battery safety

The new EU Battery Regulation, Regulation 2023/1542, introduces significant changes and requirements aimed at enhancing the sustainability and safety of batteries and battery-operated products. Here are some key points regarding the changes and new provisions:

The durability and safety requirements in Chapter II of the Battery Regulation form the regulatory heart of the new Regulation and introduce, in addition to the raw material restrictions already described in the current Battery Directive, completely new regulatory requirements for

The European Commission has published the approved Battery Regulation that will come into effect on February 18, 2024, of which the EPR (extended producer responsibility) part or the future take-back rules will come into effect on August 18, 2025.

You provide information about the battery performance & durability parameters (the values of these parameters are set by a delegated act in Appendix IV Part A, 30 and 42 months after entry into force of the Regulation). Batteries for Energy Storage System (ESS) must meet the set safety parameters. Batteries must be accompanied by a document

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On August 18, 2023, the new Regulation on batteries and waste batteries (EU) 2023/1542 ("Batteries Regulation") entered into force. The Batteries Regulation has started to become applicable on February 18, 2024, meaning that its provisions have legal effect since this day.

The Batteries Regulation is the first European legislation that considers the full life cycle of batteries, including sourcing, manufacturing, use, and recycling, all in a single law. This aligns with the European Green Deal's circularity goals and promotes the sustainability of batteries throughout their life cycle. EPBA is pleased with the outcome of the Batteries Regulation. Most of its content will aid in making batteries more sustainable throughout their life cycle. This will play a significant role in the EU's clean energy transition, the growth of a competitive industry, and energy independence from third countries.

The Batteries Regulation applies to all batteries, including portable batteries, and more specifically, portable batteries of general use. The Regulation defines a portable battery as a sealed battery that weighs up to 5 kg, is not specifically designed for industrial use, and is neither an electric vehicle battery, an LMT battery, nor an

SLI battery. A portable battery of general use (PBGU) is defined as the most commonly used sizes known to the average consumer, including 4,5 Volts (3R12), button cells, D, C, AA, AAA, AAAA, A23, 9 Volts (PP3), all of which may be rechargeable and non-rechargeable (Article 3). The Batteries Regulation introduces the following new requirements for economic operators:

## 1. Due diligence policy

Economic operators that place batteries on the EU market (excluding SMEs) are obligated to establish and implement a due diligence policy that addresses the social and environmental impacts throughout the supply chain, from raw material extraction to disposal (Article 48). Stricter due diligence rules require operators to verify the source of raw materials used in batteries. Notified bodies may audit compliance with due diligence obligations.

## 2. New labeling requirements

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