

LEAD ACID BATTERY RECYCLING Regulations

Storage of Hazardous Wastes

All jurisdictions have environmental regulations that place a general duty of care on individuals to protect land, groundwater and the environment (air). Used lead acid batteries (ULAB) need to be carefully managed to avoid any pollution, for example by storing them under cover and in a bunded area. In some jurisdictions the storage of ULAB requires an EPA licence unless the quantity being stored is below a certain threshold.

Transport of Hazardous Wastes

A waste transport licence and a waste transport certificate are required for **intrastate transport** of ULAB in some jurisdictions. Contact your local environmental authority for more information.

Interstate transport of ULAB is governed by a national agreement – the **National Environment Protection (Movement of Controlled Waste Between States and Territories) Measure** – and administered by state government agencies. The interstate transport of ULAB requires (for each load of batteries):

- 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.

The **export of ULAB** is regulated by the Australian Government under the Hazardous Waste (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1989, which meets Australia's obligations under the Basel Convention. It requires an Export Licence. More information is available from the **Department of the Environment**.

Used Lead Acid Batteries need to be carefully managed to avoid any pollution, and a general duty of care is placed on individuals to protect the environment.



Australian Battery Recycling Initiative

The Australian Battery Recycling Initiative is a not-for-profit association established in 2008 to promote responsible environmental management of batteries at end of life. More information on battery recycling can be found on their website at www.batteryrecycling.org.au.

Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail

Lead acid batteries are classified as a Dangerous Good under the **Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail (ADG Code)** - UN No. 2794, Class 8 (corrosive). Any organisation involved in transporting ULAB must comply with the Code.

A dangerous goods (DG) driver's licence is not required for ULAB as these are regarded as 'packages' (regardless of the quantity being carried).

Storage and Handling of Dangerous Goods

The general obligations for any organisation handling dangerous goods (including ULAB) are outlined in the **National Code for Storage and Handling of Workplace Dangerous Goods**. There are regulations and codes in each jurisdiction governing the storage and handling of dangerous goods.

To improve national harmonisation, the **Model Work Health and Safety Act** and **Model Work, Health and Safety Regulations** were approved by most State and Territory Ministers in 2011. State and territory laws are

being amended in most jurisdictions to reflect the model law, with some necessary local amendments.

The advice provided in the following Australian Standards should also be observed where relevant:

- **AS 3780:1994** The storage and handling of corrosive substances
- **AS/NZS 3833:2007** The storage and handling of mixed classes of dangerous goods, in packages and intermediate bulk containers.

NOTE: The information provided here is general in nature and provided for educational purposes only. Organisations must do their own research to understand their legal obligations and to ensure that they are compliant with all relevant laws and regulations. ABRI does not accept responsibility for any loss or damage occasioned by any person acting or refraining from action as a result of reliance on this document.

Contact Details for Each Jurisdiction (Hazardous Waste)

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| NSW | <u>NSW Environment Protection Agency</u> Ph: (02) 9995 5555 |
| Queensland | <u>Department of Environment and Heritage Protection</u> (Permit & License Management) 1300 130 372 |
| Victoria | <u>Environment Protection Authority Victoria</u> Ph: 1800 372 842 |
| Western Australia | <u>Department of Environment and Conservation</u> (Licensing and Permitting Branch) Ph: (08) 6467 5000 |
| South Australia | <u>Environment Protection Authority</u> (Licensing & Regulatory Services Branch) (08) 82042058 |
| Tasmania | <u>Environment Protection Authority</u> (Waste Management Section) Ph: (03) 6233 6209 |
| Northern Territory | <u>Environment Protection Authority</u> (Environmental Operations) Ph: (08) 8924 4218 |
| ACT | <u>Environment Protection Authority</u> Ph: 13 22 81 |