

BSC consultation with ABRI members

Session 10

1 JUNE 2022



Government engagement activities relevant to B-cycle

ABRI undertakes advocacy and government engagement on behalf of industry

- Many and diverse issues
- Focus of this meeting on matters which overlap with B-cycle but may also include lead-acid
- Work collaboratively with BSC where applicable

Key points:

- 1.NSW F&R research program (SARET) & mixed battery testing - update
- 2.NSW EPA e-waste compliance campaign – key findings
- 3.Vic –*Storage and Management of Waste Battery guidelines* - Member feedback and information session
- 4.Cwlth/UN Transport of Dangerous Goods proposed changes – update

1. NSW Fire & Rescue (F&R) Research Program

- Research project = Safety of Alternative and Renewable Technologies (SARET)
- Research topic areas include:
 - Efficacy of extinguishing agents and methods on LiB related fires
 - Efficacy of specialty tools and equipment for use in the management of LiB-related incidents
 - Lithium-ion battery-related fire and explosion risk in battery recycling collection programs
 - Safe handling, storage and transportation of damaged LiBs and battery systems
- Four workstreams focusing on research gaps
 1. Fire service responses to LIB fires
 - 2. End of life LIB hazard management**
 3. Electric vehicle fires in structures
 4. Fire propagation in alternative energy storage systems

1. NSW Fire & Rescue (F&R) Research Program

- ABRI participating or observing all workstreams
- For ABRI, focus is workstream 2 where and testing of small containers of mixed, used batteries, with increasing amounts of lithium in the mix
 - Container sizes are capped for WHS reasons but aware of request to test larger containers
 - Members contributing new cells for ignition source, used batteries by chemistry and containers (+ fire extinguishing equipment)
 - Testing pending regulatory approvals for the F&R NSW testing site
 - Aiming for July/August
- Members participating in workstreams in their own capacity
- ABRI can share documents and arrange for participation in workstreams

2.NSW EPA e-waste compliance campaign – key findings

EPA officers advised ABRI and BSC

Completed a compliance campaign targeting 25 electronic waste management facilities in Sydney Metropolitan area

- Identified that the vast majority of facilities had waste battery storage and transport practices that were either unsafe or that could be improved.
- Additionally, some stockpiling of lithium, mixed and lead acid batteries was identified.
- These issues were corrected by the EPA via a range of regulatory tools, with an emphasis on education and awareness at this stage

The storage of used batteries at a waste facility presents higher risks than at Community Recycling Centres due to the quantities and nature of other wastes present at these sites. The EPA therefore considers that batteries should be stored and handled at waste facilities in accordance with best available storage and handling practices. Battery collectors/transporters can undertake reasonable and practicable steps to reduce the risk of transporting non-compliant loads to waste facilities including but not limited to by: screening all loads, having packaging and non-conductive cushioning material on standby,

2.NSW EPA e-waste compliance campaign – key findings

Common issues identified by EPA:

1. Failure to protect lithium batteries from short circuits (allowing terminals to touch other terminals, packing batteries in metal drums) – can be prevented by using a thick plastic liner in metal drums, taping terminals, packing batteries with non-conductive cushioning/ absorbent material, etc
2. Failure to add non-conductive cushioning/ absorbent material in containers of loosely packed lithium batteries
3. Failure to isolate leaking batteries, where practicable
4. Failure to store batteries in DG approved containers
5. Failure to separate general rubbish from containers of lithium and mixed batteries
6. Failure to have adequate fire safety measures in place for stockpiles of batteries as per the *FRNSW guidelines: Fire safety in waste facilities*
7. Failure to pack lead acid batteries in a compliant manner (using broken pallets, excessive stacking, stacking directly on terminals) – can be avoided by using hardwood pallets, using sheets of non-conductive separators between layers

2.NSW EPA e-waste compliance campaign – key findings

ABRI is working with BSC and members to

- Seek EPA briefing for waste industry to discuss findings and next steps
- Set out briefing for EPA on:
 - Risk management practices
 - Capital investment being undertaken to minimize fire risks
 - B-cycle processes for container protocols, accreditation and other risk management tools
 - Continuous improvement in container design
 - Flexibility required
 - Need for consistency and standard approaches across jurisdictions
- Feedback and inputs welcome

Vic –Storage and Management of Waste Battery guidelines - Member feedback and information session

Vic EPA released (December 2021) new guidelines for *2018: Storage and Management of Waste Batteries – Guideline*

- Guide applies to waste and resource recovery facilities such as e-waste transfer stations, materials recycling facilities and reprocessing facilities that receive, store or transport waste batteries.
- Designed to help people in management or control of waste batteries, and details information on batteries and their risks, regulatory requirements in Victoria, and managing the collection and storage of different types of waste batteries.

Next steps

- ABRI to coordinate member feedback to Vic EPA
- Vic EPA to provide briefing for ABRI (awaiting date)
 - ABRI requested that other sectors (e.g. e-waste and scrap) also included in discussions as used battery collection covers broad range of participants

4. Cwlth/UN Transport of Dangerous Goods proposed changes – update

- Raise awareness of the process and provide opportunity to comment if interested
- Changes to UN Model Regulations eventually flow through to Australian Dangerous Goods Code
 - Important for industry to advise the Commonwealth on impacts and workability of proposed amendments before they are adopted.
- Changes to UN Model Regulations are proposed twice a year
- Latest proposed changes include requirements for packaging of large lithium batteries
 - Require inner packaging for large batteries (gross mass 12 kg or more) and large cells (gross mass 500g or more)
- Relevant to most ABRI members participating in B-cycle

Making your company profile on the ABRI website effective?

The ABRI CEO, Katharine Hole, is here to help you

➤ please get in touch

Effective company information

- Battery recycling activities
- Updated contact details
- Updated list of batteries you recycle
- Updated services you provide
- Updated information on B-cycle accreditation

