

Taking action to improve lithium-ion battery product quality and safety

ABIA Position Statement

March 2024

This position statement sets out the actions the ABIA is taking to strengthen lithium-ion battery product quality and safety, and policy priorities.

Supporting customers with the clean energy transition is everyone's responsibility and ABIA will continue to collaborate with all stakeholders to improve safety for everyone in the battery value chain.

ABIA education initiatives to strengthen product quality and safety

ABIA has initiated its own program of work to support members and their customers navigate the lithium-ion battery market for specialist applications.

During 2024, the following tools will be delivered to support members and consumers:

- Lithium-ion battery buyers guide – this guide will set out information on: construction and the components used in a battery; independent testing standards and certifications; manufacturer safety data sheets and how they support safe handling and storage; and product performance.
- Lithium-ion battery safe handling and storage guide for distributors and retailers
- Website updates to support consumers considering battery purchases and seeking generic safety information

Advocacy and policy priorities

To complement the ABIA initiatives, the ABIA has three advocacy priorities:

1. **Mandatory sharing of data and information on incidents (e.g. fires) related to lithium batteries.**
The data is critical to improve analysis on causes of battery fires, approaches to preventing further incidents and mitigating risks. Data collection will provide a foundation for understanding the level of standards required to support improved consumer safety and the products with the greatest risks.
2. **Mandatory standards and compliance with existing standards – ABIA strongly urges governments to set mandatory standards beyond that required for dangerous goods transport (UN38.3) and to conduct compliance checks with UN38.3.**
3. **Online battery sales – ABIA encourages prioritisation and urgent implementation of consumer protection and electrical safety agency work with online platforms to ensure that consumers are provided with an information sheet on: the risks, hazards and warranties associated with the Li-ion batteries they purchase online; advice on safe management and operation during a batteries life; and end of life management options and costs.**

End of life battery management

ABIA members already assist customers with end of life battery management. Many members will only take back batteries they sell where they know the product quality standards.

There can be a considerable lapse of time between battery purchase and end of life management. This makes collecting fees upfront challenging as recycling costs are likely to change. ABIA will develop a fact sheet on battery end of life management to inform customers at purchase of recycling options and how to contact a battery recycler. Unlike lead acid batteries, there is a cost to recycling lithium batteries.

Background

ABIA's mission is to *Collectively ensure a trusted, transparent and sustainable battery industry in Australia.*

ABIA achieves this through:

- Promoting the interests of the Australian Battery Industry
- Advocating for and driving best practice
- Strengthening safety for everyone in the battery value chain
- Minimising environmental impacts throughout the battery life cycle
- Providing a strong and unified voice on the views and interests of members involved in the Australian Battery Industry

ABIA's expertise is in the development, import, distribution and retail of lithium ion batteries with the predominate chemistry being lithium iron phosphate (LFP) in 6V, 12V, 24V, 36V and 48V capacity for automotive, industrial, marine and recreational activities.

For further information visit the [ABIA website](#).