

## Transboundary shipments of used lead-acid batteries is strictly regulated

In general, all used lead-acid batteries obtained from collection points for discarded batteries are considered hazardous waste and can only be legally transported out of the country with a written consent from the authorities.



PHOTO: JARI VILEN

### **Waste lead acid batteries**

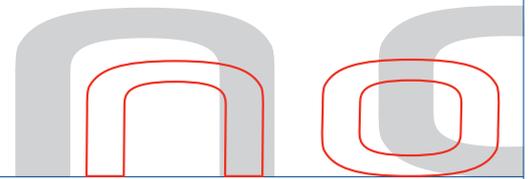
Discarded lead acid batteries not treated in an environmentally sound manner may seriously harm people's health and the environment.

Lead acid batteries contain sulphuric acid that generates a significant amount of energy, which can give rise to a high electric current and cause a serious electric shock in the event of a short-circuit. If not properly packed for transport, an uncontrolled explosion with possibly catastrophic consequences may occur. Lead contained in the active material of the battery is classified as toxic for reproduction, and can cause damage to blood, nerves and kidneys. Lead is also poisonous for aquatic organisms.

Because of the above mentioned properties, waste lead-acid batteries are hazardous waste, and therefore subject to strict regulations. Transboundary shipment of discarded lead acid batteries without a written consent from the environmental authorities is illegal and may result in legal action.

### **Collection points**

Discarded batteries should be delivered free of charge to a national collection point. National importers of batteries are responsible for setting up national collection points and waste management of discarded batteries (extended producer responsibility). Waste batteries may only be delivered to a facility that has an environmental permit to receive such waste.



### **Consequences of illegal shipment (no written consent to waste shipment or non-compliance with national requirements)**

Illegally shipped waste batteries will be confiscated. Preliminary investigation will be started and may lead to criminal prosecution.

### **Legal transboundary shipment of discarded batteries**

If discarded batteries are to be transported to another country, a waste shipment consent from the environmental authorities is needed. Please, note that in general, it is forbidden to ship hazardous waste out of the EU, and the consent can only be obtained for shipment within EU and OECD countries.

To apply for a waste shipment consent, please contact your national environmental authority.

### **Classification of waste lead acid batteries**

When applying for consent to ship waste lead acid batteries to another country, use the following waste codes:

EWC:	16 06 01*; 20 01 33*
Basel code:	A1160
UN class:	8
UN number:	UN2794
UN shipping name:	batteries, wet, filled with acid, electric storage
Custom Code:	ex. 85481010, 85481021, ex. 85481029, ex. 85481091, ex. 85481099

### **Requirements for transport of discarded batteries**

For the transport of discarded batteries, ADR rules (European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road, [http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/adr/adr\\_e.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/adr/adr_e.html)) are to be followed, and registration as a waste carrier must be in place.

### **Transboundary shipment of used lead acid batteries for reuse is allowed only if:**

- Batteries are in working order
- Proper documentation confirming the batteries' good condition is available
- Copies of receipts or contracts relating to the sale and/or transfer of ownership can be provided
- The outward/external appearance of the item does not show any waste characteristics
- The packaging/packing is sufficient for protection during transport, loading and unloading. The ADR rules apply

### **Country contacts (competent authorities):**

Estonia:	Environmental Board: <a href="http://www.keskkonnaamet.ee/eng">http://www.keskkonnaamet.ee/eng</a>
Finland:	Finnish Environment Institute: <a href="http://www.environment.fi/tfs">http://www.environment.fi/tfs</a>
Latvia:	State Environmental Service of Latvia: <a href="http://www.vvd.gov.lv/eng/about-us/">http://www.vvd.gov.lv/eng/about-us/</a>
Lithuania:	Environmental Protection Agency: <a href="http://gamta.lt/cms/index?lang=en">http://gamta.lt/cms/index?lang=en</a>
Norway:	Norwegian Environment Agency: <a href="http://www.miljodirektoratet.no/en/">http://www.miljodirektoratet.no/en/</a>
Sweden:	The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency: <a href="http://www.swedishepa.se/">http://www.swedishepa.se/</a>

### **Extended producer responsibility organization**

If you are interested in finding out more about waste management of discarded batteries, get in touch with one of the responsible organizations:

Estonia:	<a href="http://www.elektroonikaromu.ee/web/?cat_ID=2&amp;page_id=17">http://www.elektroonikaromu.ee/web/?cat_ID=2&amp;page_id=17</a> <a href="http://eesringlus.ee/">http://eesringlus.ee/</a>
Finland:	<a href="http://www.akkukierratyspb.fi/en/">http://www.akkukierratyspb.fi/en/</a>
Latvia:	<a href="http://www.lvaf.gov.lv/faili/drn/VKP.pdf">http://www.lvaf.gov.lv/faili/drn/VKP.pdf</a>
Lithuania:	<a href="http://www.epa.lt/lt/">http://www.epa.lt/lt/</a> ; <a href="http://www.gia.lt/">http://www.gia.lt/</a>
Norway:	<a href="http://www.batteriretur.no">http://www.batteriretur.no</a> <a href="http://www.elretur.no/">http://www.elretur.no/</a>
Sweden:	<a href="http://www.blybatteriretur.se/english">http://www.blybatteriretur.se/english</a>

## **Addresses & information**

Nordic Council of Ministers  
Ved Stranden 18  
DK-1061 Copenhagen  
Tel +45 33 96 02 00

Further information:  
[www.norden.org](http://www.norden.org)