

LEAD ACID BATTERY RECYCLING

Safe Storage

Safe Storage of Used Lead Acid Batteries

Used lead acid batteries (ULAB) must be stored, handled and transported in accordance with hazardous waste, dangerous goods and workplace health and safety legislation:

- The general obligations for any organisation handling 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.

General Regulatory Requirements

General regulatory requirements for the storage of dangerous goods such as ULAB include:

- classification and labelling
- preparation of Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)
- worker consultation and training
- accident and incident reporting
- risk assessment and review
- fire protection systems
- external placarding
- registers
- notification of quantities in excess of manifest quantities.

Premise Requirements

All premises must be designed for use with the specific dangerous goods that will be handled and stored:

- ULAB should be kept in a designated storage location, with ease of access to minimise transfer and transport risks.
- Buildings should be designed, selected and maintained in a manner that recognises the risks associated with ULAB.
- Placards must be displayed on or near each storage location for ULAB.
- Floor slabs and bunded walls must be impervious to, and compatible with, the acid to be contained in the event of a spill. Concrete is recommended as it is robust and generally impervious.
- ULAB must be fully protected from the weather, and be reasonably secured from access by unauthorised persons.
- Procedures should be in place to ensure that the integrity of existing bunds is maintained.

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.



Risk Assessment and Risk Management Strategy

A risk assessment and risk management strategy should be developed for each storage site:

- An Emergency Plan must be put in place. The plan must be reviewed every five years or earlier if there is a change in circumstances at the premises, or any adjacent premises.
- Emergency procedures, including fire fighting, should be developed on the basis of the needs indicated by the risk assessment.
- Relevant emergency contact telephone numbers need to be displayed in prominent locations or provided to workers.
- A Spill Management Plan is required to prevent and respond to accidental spills. Procedures should be put in place to ensure that spills are cleaned up immediately, with the necessary equipment and absorbent kept on hand.
- Train employees how to handle dangerous goods and deal with a spill. Refer to the relevant MSDS for advice on storing, using and disposing of hazardous materials.
- The quantities of ULAB in a temporary storage location, and the duration of the storage, should be kept to a minimum.

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.



Packaging requirements for transport of ULAB to a recycler can be downloaded from www.batteryrecycling.org.au/recycling/automotive-batteries.

It is preferable for pallets of ULAB to be stacked no more than two pallets high. Any packaging that has contained ULAB (e.g. pallets) must be cleaned before disposal.