

Waste batteries

You should only apply for approval if your business is operational or is ready to begin operations as soon as the approval is granted. Please note that you cannot treat or export automotive or industrial batteries without approval being granted.

You must follow extra rules if you manage waste batteries, including collection, treatment, recycling and export. These are in addition to your duty of care and hazardous waste regulation requirements.

If you export to a site located outside of the European Economic Area, you must provide evidence that the site ensures their waste operations won't endanger human health or harm the environment. You can provide:

If you're an ABTO or ABE and don't have an arrangement in place with a battery compliance scheme (BCS) to treat or recycle batteries, you can only act for them as a battery collector. If you later make an agreement to act as an ABTO or ABE for the BCS, then you must accept the batteries as an ABTO/ABE and may issue evidence notes.

You must store all waste batteries you accept as an ABTO or ABE in places with impermeable surfaces and suitable weatherproof coverings. Or the containers you use must have similar characteristics.

If you receive mixed loads of waste batteries, you must accurately record the proportion of automotive, industrial and portable batteries in the load, either by sorting each load or applying an agreed protocol. You must also assess and exclude the weight of any contamination in the load (for example a "lead" ABTO accepts a load that includes "non-lead-acid" batteries - they record the lead batteries by type and everything else as contamination).

The recycling process is complete when the waste material is classed as end of waste and becomes usable for its original purpose (for example, extracted metals from waste batteries used in manufacturing components for new batteries) or for other purposes (for example, for manufacturing other components).



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