



Ministry of
Environment

Hazardous Waste Update

Disposal of Used or Spent lead-acid Batteries

For Other Receivers of Batteries

Over the last two years, the Ministry has been working with the lead-acid battery supply and service sector to clarify the Hazardous Waste Regulation (HWR) for requirements collecting, storing, transporting and recycling used or spent lead-acid batteries. This bulletin presents the revised guidance that is a result of this work.

Does this guidance apply to me?

This guidance document applies to you if you receive used or spent lead-acid batteries from your customers, clients, independent battery collectors, or any other source, and you are *not* an original manufacturer or supplier of new, never-been-used batteries, and you are *not* a “producer” under the Recycling Regulation. To qualify as a *producer*, you must either be a member in good standing of an approved stewardship plan under Part 2 of the Recycling Regulation or meet all the requirements under Part 3 of the Recycling Regulation. The following web site provides a list of qualified Recycling Regulation producers:

Canadian Battery Association (CBA) <http://recyclemybattery.ca/british-columbia>

Businesses covered by this guidance document generally include battery recyclers, scrapyards, interim or intermediate storage facilities, processors for breaking or dismantling batteries, or smelters for recovery of lead or other materials.

When is a used or spent lead-acid battery considered hazardous waste?

A used or spent lead-acid battery is considered “waste” as soon as the original user no longer has any use for it. All used or spent lead-acid batteries are *hazardous* waste, and therefore subject to the HWR, as soon as the decision is made to transport them to a facility other than an original manufacturer or supplier. If you are not an original manufacturer or supplier (see above), all used lead-acid batteries you receive are hazardous wastes, as are all batteries that are in transit on their way to you. This is true whether the battery is shipped to you directly from the original user, or collected at a return collection facility or other interim storage facility and then transferred to you.

What are my responsibilities under the HWR?

As a *receiver* of hazardous waste under the HWR, you must be in compliance with all applicable provisions of the HWR for an “authorized consignee”, including those for storage. Establishing a storage area at your facility will likely require the preparation of designated plans (plans and specifications, an operational plan, a contingency plan and a closure plan) and may, in some situations, include posting financial security at the discretion of a director. You must also register as a hazardous waste generator and get a registered site number (RS#) if at any time you store more than 2,000 kg of used lead-acid batteries (about 90 typical vehicle batteries) or process used lead-acid batteries in a quantity exceeding 2,000 kg/day.

If you intend to ship batteries you had received from your RS facility to another off-site management facility, you are also a hazardous waste generator. You must register the batteries with the Ministry of Environment as hazardous waste if in any 30-day period you generate/accumulate more than 2,000 kg of used batteries, or store this quantity at any time. You must also ensure that batteries shipped from your facility follow the transportation rules below.

What are the rules for transportation of used batteries?

All used lead-acid batteries, whether or not they are hazardous waste, are “dangerous goods” and are fully subject to the federal Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulation, including requirements for shipping documentation, labelling and placarding of vehicles.

Manifests and licensed carriers must be used for shipping waste batteries in quantities greater than or equal to 1,000 kg (about 45 typical vehicle batteries). All parties involved in managing, generating, transporting and receiving these batteries must meet all applicable requirements under the HWR.

What if I have questions?

Contact the Ministry at hazwaste@victoria1.gov.bc.ca.