

Lead-based batteries are vital to the day-to-day economic wellbeing of Europe.

Plans to impose further regulatory burdens on lead-based batteries are not proportionate

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Lead REACH
CONSORTIUM

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Lead-based batteries are a key enabler of Europe's economic and sustainable future

Lead batteries make up 90% of the global market share for rechargeable batteries. They are an essential, safe and integral part of the entire EU economy.



No more red tape

A drive to include lead metal in the **REACH** authorisation process would impose unnecessary new levels of red tape on battery use of a metal which is already:

- **highly regulated through existing legislation**
- **responsibly managed, and**
- **carefully controlled.**

Did you know?



REACH authorisation only applies to EU manufacturers and will place no requirements on imported batteries.



Lead batteries are manufactured in **14 EU Member States** and the industry employs 20,000 workers.

They support and protect critical infrastructure and are fundamental to important EU industries including automotive.



As well as being almost **100% recycled**, lead batteries are increasingly being used to store and distribute power for renewable energy.

Lead-based batteries play an essential role and are used in:

- All vehicles (including hybrid and electric vehicles)
- Emergency back-up power for hospitals, telecommunications and data storage
- Batteries for industry – including forklift trucks and other battery vehicles
- Batteries for energy storage – supporting solar and wind power applications

Subjecting lead metal used in batteries to the REACH authorisation process is **not a proportionate regulatory action**. It would undermine the competitiveness of the European battery industry, without reducing the risk to human health and the environment.

Essential and sustainable

Lead batteries are one of the most sustainable consumer products



99% collection & recycling rate.



of a new lead battery is made from recycled materials.

No other battery technology meets these sustainability credentials.





Lead-based batteries should be exempt from REACH authorisation

There are no substitutes for the use of lead metal in lead-based batteries, and no alternatives for lead-based batteries in many applications.

That's why the use of lead metal, in the production of lead-based batteries, should be exempt from REACH authorisation:

- 1** Lead is ALREADY highly regulated, through substance-specific legislation covering manufacturing, end-of-life and waste management.
- 2** Lead-based batteries operate in a closed loop with almost 100% collected and recycled at the end of life.
- 3** Lead batteries are sealed units which means there are no exposure risks for human health or the environment.
- 4** Lead batteries are an essential, reliable and safe enabler of the EU economy, supporting critical infrastructure including power back-up for emergency services, computer networks and telecommunications.
- 5** Authorisation will only impact EU manufacturers and will place no restrictions on imported batteries.

Sustainable, safe and reliable

Lead batteries are key to delivering Europe's energy future

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About the Lead REACH Consortium

The Lead REACH Consortium represents more than 90 legal entities involved in the mining, smelting, refining and recycling of lead, the manufacture of lead compounds, and the production of lead-based automotive and industrial batteries. Managed by the International Lead Association (ILA), the Lead REACH Consortium advocates proportionate regulation which is based on sound science and is supportive of responsible, sustainable production and use of lead and its substances.

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