

# CHOOSING THE RIGHT BATTERY RECYCLER

It is important for both environmental and legal reasons for choose the 'right' recycler. This checklist will provide you with some of the questions that you'll need to ask a battery collector or recycler to make sure that they meet your expectations for responsible recycling.

## QUESTIONS FOR COLLECTORS

### 1. Does the collector have a waste transport and a dangerous goods license to transport used batteries?

A dangerous goods (DG) and a waste transport license is required if the amount of batteries being transported exceeds a minimum amount. This varies in each state and territory. Ask to see the collector's licenses.

### 2. Are the batteries transported in compliance with the Australian Dangerous Goods Code?

Lead acid, nickel cadmium, lithium ion and lithium batteries are classified as a 'dangerous good' and must be transported and packaged according to the [Australian Dangerous Goods \(ADG\) Code](#) and associated regulations in each state and territory.

There are strict requirements for the packaging used batteries for transport. ABRI's [packaging guidelines](#) are a useful reference for lead acid batteries.

### 3. Does the collector have a hazardous waste license to store used batteries?

Most batteries are a controlled (or regulated) waste under state and territory hazardous waste legislation. A waste storage license is required if the amount of batteries exceeds a minimum amount. This varies in each state and territory. Ask to see the collector's waste storage license.

### 4. Does the collector have a waste transport certificate for each load of batteries?

The interstate transport of batteries requires:

- A consignment authorisation from the environmental agency in the destination state or territory
- A waste transport certificate from the agency in the originating state or territory and this must accompany the load in transit

Ask to see the waste transport certificate for each load of batteries.

### 5. Has the collector provided you with information on what happens to the batteries they collect?

Ask the collector where and how the batteries will be recycled. The collector should be able to provide you with performance reports or certificates of recycling.

If the batteries are being exported for recycling, the collector or its contractor(s) must have an export permit from the Australian Government (all used batteries are classified as a hazardous waste under the Hazardous Waste Act).

### 6. Does the collector and its contractor(s) have third party certification?

Accreditation is used to indicate compliance with best practice standards including:

- AS/NZS 14001 series, Environment management system
- ISO 9001: 2008 Quality management system
- AS/NZS 5377: 2013, Collection, storage, transport and treatment of end-of-life electrical and electronic equipment.

### 7. Is the collector a member of ABRI?

Members of the **Australian Battery Recycling Initiative (ABRI)** have signed a Code of Conduct that commits them to high standards for product stewardship, regulatory compliance, and health and safety. A list of ABRI members is available at [www.batteryrecycling.org.au](http://www.batteryrecycling.org.au).

## QUESTIONS FOR RECYCLERS

### 1. Does the recycler have operating approvals from the state and local government?

A battery recycling facility must be licensed by the state or territory government and may require approval from the local council.

### 2. Does the collector have third party certification?

Accreditation is used to indicate compliance with best practice standards including:

- AS/NZS 14001 series, Environment management system
- ISO 9001: 2008 Quality management system
- AS/NZS 5377: 2013, Collection, storage, transport and treatment of end-of-life electrical and electronic equipment.

### 3. Will the recycler let you visit their facilities?

Visiting a recycler's facilities is a great way to see for yourself how they operate. In most cases a responsible recycler will welcome a visit.

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**ABRI**  
Value Over Impact

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**Australian Battery Recycling Initiative** The Australian Battery Recycling Initiative (ABRI) 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](http://www.batteryrecycling.org.au).