FACT SHEET 006

SMALL SEALED LEAD ACID BATTERIES

BACKGROUND

Small sealed lead acid (SSLA) batteries are considered mature battery technology and used in a variety of applications for example toy cars, commercial weighing scales, alarm systems, emergency lighting systems, backup power supply, telecommunications equipment, fire and security systems, railway systems and power stations, to name a few.

Used SSLA batteries are recyclable and currently the recovered materials have a commercial value. Close to 100% of SSLA battery materials can be recycled through existing infrastructure and technology.

Australia currently has a well-established infrastructure for collection and recycling of SSLA batteries, with approximately 90% of used seal lead acid batteries collected for recycling in Australia.

What are small sealed lead acid batteries?

Small sealed lead acid (SSLA) batteries are batteries <10kg made of plates, lead and lead oxide solution with a 35% sulfuric acid to 65% water ratio.

Are small sealed lead acid batteries included in the scope of the Battery Stewardship Scheme?

No. Small, sealed lead acid batteries are currently excluded from the Scheme as there is already an effective _operating market_ for end-of-life recovery & recycling for those batteries.

Within Australia the sealed lead-acid battery market is financially effective. For processors that collect, and process used SSLAs, the value is net positive and therefore, does not require a financial incentive.

As a result, small sealed lead acid batteries are not eligible for BSC rebates.

Implication for Scheme participants

BSC understands that in the past, SSLA have been collected as part of mixed loads of batteries. In fact, data provided to the BSC indicates that they may make up between 3 – 10% of collected batteries through incidental collections.

BSC Policy

The BSC strategic position is based on the following:

- Small sealed lead acid (SSLA) batteries are not considered in-scope in the National Battery Stewardship Scheme.
- This is due to an existing, effective market that captures and recovers materials within used SSLA batteries.
- Used SSLA batteries therefore provide a net positive economic benefit for battery recyclers/processors.
- Therefore, rebate payments will not be paid to used SSLA battery collections through the Scheme.

Additional actions

The BSC Rebate Protocol outlines this and further processes, including that:

- BSC will continue to collect market information on the value and costs of processing used SSLA batteries.
- BSC will continue to have dialogue with the recycling industry including the industry association, Australian Battery Recycling Initiative, to understand these costs and how they may impact the Scheme.
- BSC accredited collectors, sorters, and processors may continue to collect used SSLA batteries collected through a B-cycle collection/drop-off point. However, the collection, sorting and processing of these used batteries will not be eligible for BSC rebate payments.
- Any BSC rebate payments paid for used SSLA batteries will be deducted from the following rebate payment period once the collected used batteries have gone through the used battery processing cycle.
- BSC will work with accredited collectors, sorter and processors to assist in developing acceptance protocols that redirect such batteries to dedicated lead acid recyclers

ACTIONS FOR YOU

If you are thinking of participating in the Scheme, you can become a Battery Steward by:

- **Joining the BSC (https://bsc.org.au/document-types/bsc-forms) and submit your signed Battery Steward Commitment**
- **Register your interest in becoming a collection, sorting or recycling partner**
- **Acknowledge used SSLAs collected via a B-cycle Scheme will not be eligible for rebate payments.**

Still have questions or need assistance?

**If you still have questions or would like further information, related documents can be downloaded from the BSC Website 'Resources' menu or email us at contact@bsc.org.au
To locate a lead-acid battery recycler please visit https://batteryrecycling.org.au/**