



ADVANCED RECHARGEABLE & LITHIUM BATTERIES ASSOCIATION

To:

Georges Gilkinet
Deputy Prime-Minister and Minister of Mobility
Federal Government of Belgium

Alain Maron
Minister of Climate Transition, Environment, Energy
Government of the Brussels-Capital Region

Brussels, 27 February 2024

Subject: Partial exemptions for packaging for dangerous goods in the PPWR risk the effectiveness and safety during the transportation of goods containing hazardous materials

Dear Deputy Prime-Minister Gilkinet,
Dear Minister Maron,

RECHARGE – the leading voice of the rechargeable and lithium batteries value chain in Europe – is deeply concerned about the inclusion of transport packaging for dangerous goods in the scope of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR). **We endorse the European Parliament’s proposed exemption for such packaging from the full scope of the PPWR and caution against any piecemeal solutions.**

The PPWR does not differentiate packaging and subjects all packaging and waste packaging to its requirements, regardless of the packaging use case, material, or origin. Consequently, transport packaging for dangerous goods would fall under the scope of the PPWR, obliging it to meet among others reusability, refillability, recycled content, and space reduction targets.

Importantly, transport packaging for dangerous goods is already subject to the UN Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods to ensure the safety of people, property, and the environment during transportation.

The primary concern when handling dangerous goods is safety. It is essential to ensure strict packaging standards to prevent accidents, spills, leaks, and contamination. Dangerous goods packaging is carefully designed and tested to ensure compatibility with the specific hazardous materials they are meant to contain. Reusing, refilling, or changing the design of these containers can result in contamination, chemical reactions, or material degradation that can compromise the packaging's effectiveness and safety. Therefore, **the batteries value chain strongly supports the European Parliament’s proposed full exemption in Article 2, paragraph 1.**

While RECHARGE appreciates the intention of the Council of the EU to exclude transport packaging for dangerous goods from the scope of certain provisions in Articles 6, 7, and 26, such an approach would still jeopardise safety during transportation of hazardous materials and could not guarantee compliance with UN rules. **UN Model Regulations cover all types of transport, while the partial exemptions offered in the Council’s approach relate only to road transport packaging.** This means that transport by air or by sea will not be exempted from reuse requirements and safety risks will remain.

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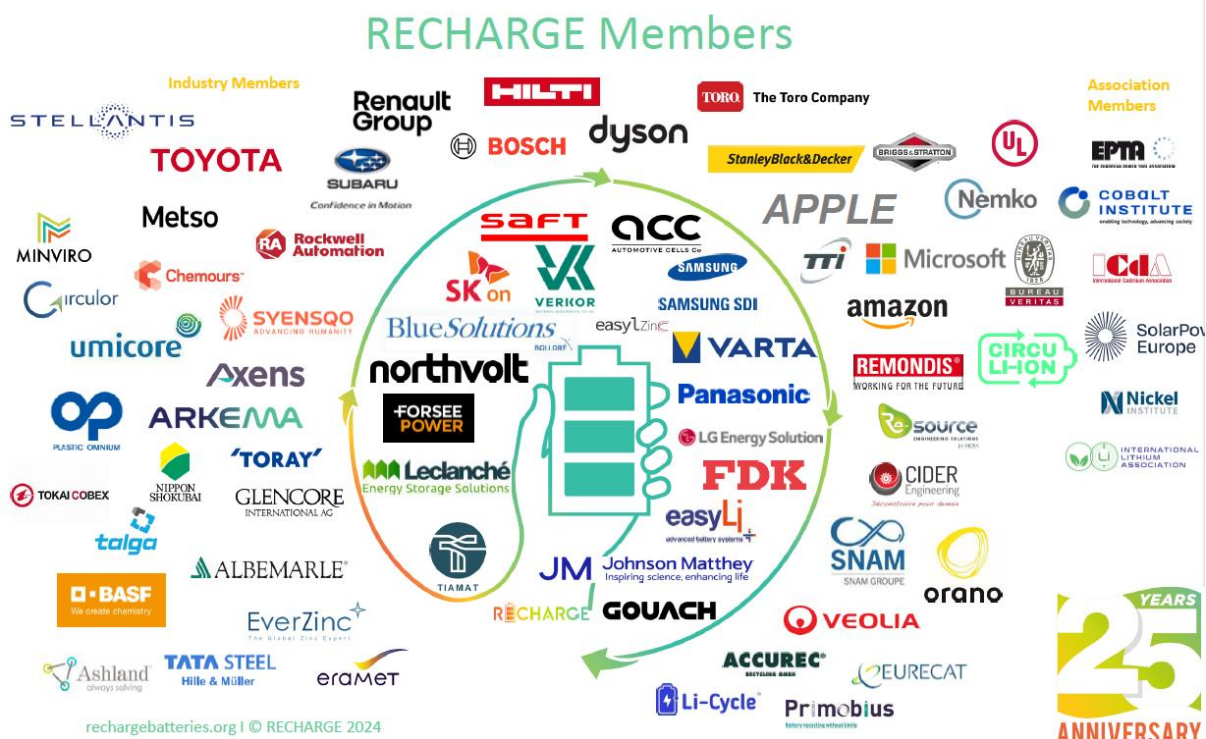
Furthermore, any change to the design or composition of the packaging for the transportation of dangerous goods will entail the loss of their UN certification. Therefore, any PPWR provision, with an impact on design, composition, and labelling (among others, Article 5 on requirements for substances in packaging, Article 9 on the minimisation of packaging, Article 11 on labelling of packaging, etc.), could lead to loss of UN approval.

RECHARGE is calling on the Belgian Presidency of the Council to ensure that the Parliament's proposed full exemption is adopted in the final PPWR so that industry can operate effectively and safety during the transportation of dangerous goods is upheld.

On behalf of the batteries value chain in Europe, thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Claude Chanson
Director General, RECHARGE



ABOUT RECHARGE

RECHARGE is the European industry association for advanced rechargeable and lithium batteries. Founded in 1998, it is our mission to promote advanced rechargeable batteries as a key technology that will contribute to a more empowered, sustainable and circular economy. RECHARGE's unique membership covers all aspects of the advanced rechargeable battery value chain in Europe: from suppliers of primary and secondary raw materials, to battery, equipment and original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), to logistic partners and battery recyclers. www.rechargebatteries.org

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