

Code of Conduct

Small Lithium-ion Battery Powered Device Fire Risk

[February 2024]

Background

Lithium-ion battery powered devices are part of everyday living. They include phones, computers, vacuum cleaners, power tools, electric vehicles, e-bikes/e-scooters to name a few.

The ACCC has produced a comprehensive report into the fire risk of Li-ion battery powered device: https://www.accc.gov.au/system/files/Lithium-ion%20Batteries%20report_3_0.pdf

Recommendations include improved education on the fire risk to improve overall safety.

Fire and Rescue NSW states that between 1 January and 15 September 2023 there were 749 battery-related incidents; up 16% on the same period in 2022. ACCC recommends that we become educated of the dangers of lithium-ion batteries and observe best practices in respect of these as this continuing issue evolves in Australia and elsewhere.

EV FireSafe, a company funded by the Australian Department of Defence to research electric vehicle battery fires and emergency response, is among the world leaders in this space. They have categorised the range of li-ion battery powered devices according to fire risk. See appendix 1.

This code of conduct deals with small Li-ion battery powered devices you would find about the home which EVFireSafe have categorised as low risk, mainly due to good design and quality control. For higher risk devices, like e-bike/e-scooters, see our by-law on that subject.

Code of Conduct

In the interests of fire safety an Owner or Occupier who keeps an Electronic Device in the Scheme must:

- a) Only purchase and use devices and equipment from reputable manufacturers and suppliers.
- b) Only use chargers that are supplied with the device, or certified third-party charging equipment that is compatible with the battery specifications.
- c) Not use chargers with incorrect power delivery (voltage and current) which can cause damage to the battery including overheating that can lead to fire.
- d) Check that chargers bear the Regulatory Compliance Mark¹, to show that they meet the relevant Australian Standards under the Electrical Equipment Safety System (EESS).
- e) Be present while Li-ion batteries or devices while being charged.
- f) Avoid charging overnight.



The Regulatory Compliance Mark (RCM) is a trade mark owned by the electrical regulator (Regulatory Authorities (RAs)) and Australian Communications Media Authority (ACMA).

- g) Disconnect the device from the charge once the indicator shows that the device or battery has been fully charged.
- h) Not dispose of any Battery in the general waste receptacles, recycling waste receptacles, green waste receptacles of the Scheme or in any other waste receptacles anywhere in the Building not designated clearly for Battery disposal.
- i) Not use Li-ion batteries or devices that show signs of swelling or bulging, leaking, overheating, or signs of mechanical damage (cracked, dented, punctured, or crushed).
- j) Ensure you have a working smoke detector according to EPA standards.

Your front door is a fire door. If you experience a fire in your apartment, please do NOT open the fire door to let out the smoke or leave the fire door open when you exit the apartment as this can allow the fire to spread. The fire door must be closed to contain the fire.

Appendix 1 – Li-ion Battery Risk Categorisation

Lithium-ion battery categorisation for emergency response - common uses



Category	Smaller Devices	Personal Mobility Devices (PMD)	Light delivery EV (LDEV)	Road registered EV (EVs)	Battery energy storage systems (BESS)
OEM guidance	No ERG	No ERG	No ERG	Most ERGs available	Most ERGs available
Risk	Low risk	High risk	Moderate risk	Very low risk	Very low risk