



Secretariat

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**COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT OF
DANGEROUS GOODS AND ON THE GLOBALLY
HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION
AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS**

Sub-Committee of Experts on the
Transport of Dangerous Goods

Twenty-fifth session, 5-14 July 2004
Item 13 of the provisional agenda

OTHER BUSINESS

Application for consultative status by the Portable Rechargeable Battery Association (PRBA)

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has received an application from the Portable Rechargeable Battery Association (PRBA) for consultative status with the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods.
2. Amongst other issues, PRBA is interested in the question of transport and classification of used (spent) portable batteries, fuel cells for portable applications and lithium and lithium ion batteries.
3. More detailed information on PRBA may be found hereafter and on PRBA web site (www.prba.org).
4. The Sub-Committee is invited to decide whether PRBA may participate in its work with a consultative status.

January 29, 2004

Mr. Olivier Kervella
Secretariat, Dangerous Goods and Special Cargoes Section
UNECE Transport Division
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10

Re: Request for Consultative Status

Dear Mr. Kervella:

I am writing to request that the United Nations Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods approve the Portable Rechargeable Battery Association (PRBA) for consultative status. This letter and accompanying materials provide information on PRBA for consideration by the Subcommittee at the twenty-fifth session scheduled for 5-14 July 2004.

PRBA is interested in numerous issues before the UN Sub-Committee including, but not limited to, the transport and classification of used (spent) portable batteries, fuel cells for portable applications, and lithium and lithium ion batteries. The European Battery Recycling Association (EBRA) recently was granted consultative status due to their interest in the transport and classification of used portable batteries. PRBA and its members bring additional expertise and perspectives to these issues.

Information on PRBA activities, objectives, and members is attached for the Sub-Committee's review. More detailed information may be found on PRBA's web site (www.prba.org).

If PRBA's application for consultative status is approved, the following individuals would represent PRBA before the Sub-Committee:

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Thank you for considering PRBA's application for consultative status. If you have questions regarding our application, I can be reached at (770) 419-9984 or n.England@att.net.

Sincerely,

Norm England

C. Norman England
President and CEO
Portable Rechargeable Battery Association

INTRODUCTION

The Portable Rechargeable Battery Association (PRBA) was formed in 1991 to respond to the growing need in the United States for workable battery recycling programs by developing plans that could be utilized industry-wide. To that end, PRBA members established numerous pilot recycling programs. Based on the success of these pilot programs, PRBA developed a public education and battery recycling program to be implemented throughout the United States. This program is now in place and is administered by the industry-funded Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC), an independent, nonprofit public service organization. The program also has expanded to cover Canada. Currently, the RBRC program collects nickel cadmium, lithium ion, nickel metal hydride, and small sealed lead acid batteries. RBRC also announced its intention to collect used cellular phones (and their batteries) for recycling.

In 1995, PRBA was actively involved in the adoption of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's "Universal Waste Rule," which reduces regulatory barriers to the collection of rechargeable batteries on a nationwide basis. In addition, PRBA played an important role in promoting enactment of the "Mercury-Containing and Rechargeable Battery Management Act" by the United States Congress in 1996. This statute streamlined regulatory requirements for collecting nickel cadmium batteries and facilitated and encouraged voluntary industry programs to recycle them. The Act also removed barriers to battery recycling programs resulting from individual State laws and regulatory restrictions governing the collection, recycling, and transportation of these batteries.

More broadly, PRBA serves as the voice of the Rechargeable Power Industry, representing portable battery and electronic manufacturers on legislative, regulatory, and standards issues at the state, federal and international level. PRBA also works closely with its counterparts in Europe and Asia including the Battery Association of Japan, International Cadmium Association, the European Portable Battery Association, and Collect NiCad. Since 1998, PRBA has worked closely with the U.S. Department of Transportation on issues affecting the transport of lithium and lithium ion cells and batteries.

PRBA also provides reports, newsletters and other information to keep its members informed of the latest domestic and international activities and issues affecting the rechargeable power industry.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Portable Rechargeable Battery Association is to provide leadership in obtaining consistent domestic and international solutions to environmental, transportation, and other selected issues affecting the use, recycling and disposal of small sealed rechargeable batteries.

GOALS

- Provide supporting legislative, regulatory and communications programs to ensure that the implementation of the RBRC national collection program for nickel cadmium, lithium ion, nickel metal hydride, and small sealed lead acid batteries, and now used cellular phones, is successful.
- Resolve the role of PRBA in facilitating the collection for recycling of SSLA batteries.
- Pursue efforts to address other international rechargeable battery environmental management and transportation issues, improve relationships with other concerned organizations and develop positions on pending issues as necessary.
- Monitor and influence U.S. State and Federal government legislative and regulatory policies that affect the rechargeable battery and battery operated products industries.
- Involve individuals from all segments of the membership in association activities and provide a forum for appropriate discussion of issues of common interest.
- Provide timely information on relevant regulatory and legislative developments that will assist members in developing appropriate compliance programs.

- Seek out ways to improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness through coordination with other industry groups, to avoid duplication of effort and limit financial demands on PRBA members.

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**MEMBERS OF PORTABLE RECHARGEABLE
BATTERY ASSOCIATION**

3M
American Power Conversion
Anton/Bauer, Inc.
Battery Council International
Battery Pro's
Black & Decker
Canadian Household Battery Association
Cannon U.S.A., Inc.
Centurion International
The Coleman Company Inc.
Conair Corp.
Dell Computer
Digi-Key Corporation
Duracell Inc.
EnerSys, Inc./Yuasa Battery Co.
E-One Moli Energy (Canada) Limited/ Moli Energy
Everready
Fedco Electronics
Fisher-Price
Frigidaire Home Products
Fujitsu Transaction Solutions, Inc./Fujitsu-ICL Systems Inc.
GP Batteries Int'l Ltd.
GS Battery (USA) Inc.
Hewlett Packard
Inmetco
International Cadmium Association
ITW
Kenwood
Makita USA
Mattell
Milwaukee Electric Tool
Motorola
Nexergy/Promark
Nokia
Panasonic Industrial Co.
Philips Electronics NA Corp/ Norelco
Porter Cable
Proctor & Gamble
Rayovac Corporation
Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corp.
SAFT America
Sanyo Energy (USA)
Sanyo North America
S-B Power Tool Company
Sharp Electronics Corp.
Sony Corp. of America
Streamlight, Inc.
Tandy Corporation/ RadioShack
Thompson Consumer Elec., Inc.
Tocad America
The Toro Company
Toshiba America, Inc.
Toyota Tsusho America, Inc./Denso/TD Scan USA
Tyco Industries, Inc.
Ultralife Batteries
Valence Technology, Inc.
Varta Batteries
Vector Manufacturing, Ltd.
White Consolidated
