

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Joint Meeting of the RID Safety Committee and the
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
(Geneva, 13-23 September 2005)

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Application for consultative status by the European Portable Battery Association (EPBA)

The secretariat has received from **European Portable Battery Association (EPBA)** a request for participation in the work of the Joint Meeting as an observer non-governmental organization.

The secretariat reproduces below information received from EPBA requesting consultative status as a non-governmental organization for participation in the work of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. The Sub-Committee granted EPBA consultative status on its twenty-seventh session (Geneva, 4-8 July 2005).

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Brussels, 28 June 2005

RE: Application to obtain consultative status for the UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods.

Dear Mr Kervella,

I am contacting you to request that the UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods approve the EPBA (European Portable Battery Association) application to obtain consultative status for the above mentioned sub-committee.

EPBA has a significant interest in the issues which are discussed in the Sub-Committee such as the ADR rules, the transport of spent portable batteries and lithium & lithium ion batteries. In addition, for the moment no manufacturer's association for portable batteries is represented in the working parties and decision bodies for ADR regulations

You will find attached to this document more specific information on our membership, scope of activities and justification for obtaining consultative status.

I thank you in advance for considering EPBA's application for consultative status. Do not hesitate to contact me should you have additional questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Barlow', is written over a horizontal line.

Rachel Barlow
Secretary General

1) What is the purpose of EPBA?

EPBA is the European Portable Battery Association, a non-government trade association representing interests of the portable battery industry (manufacturers and importers of rechargeable and primary batteries) active in the European market. EPBA also seeks participation of battery assemblers, packers and original equipment manufacturers, OEMs, as associate members and has all EU national battery Associations as affiliate members. In addition we work closely with the battery industry in the US and Japan on issues of international relevance. In 2004 our members placed around 160,000t of batteries on the European market.

2) Information as to the programmes and activities of your organisation in areas relevant to the work of the Sub-Committee and the country or countries in which they are carried out?

EPBA's mission is to ensure that ideal conditions are created for the responsible development of the portable battery industry in Europe. Acting in the common interests of all of its members, the EPBA aims to sustain a competitive industry in an increasingly complex policy and legislative climate.

The Association is an influential European trade organisation with contacts at the highest levels with industry, European Union institutions and international bodies, as well as national battery associations and national or regional governmental bodies. We work closely with national battery collection and recycling organisations that are set up by our members.

One part of our member's responsibility is the collection and recycling of batteries they have placed on the market when they become waste according to the European Battery Directive and national regulations. In 2004 they collected and recycled almost 25,000 t of waste batteries across Europe.

Spent batteries are collected as a mixture of various electrochemical systems at retail outlets, municipal depots, schools and other private and public locations in different types of containers. The mixture contains various quantities of **lithium batteries** which leads to their classification for transport as dangerous goods under the ADR regulations.

3) Confirmation of the interest in the goals and objectives of the Sub-Committee

For the moment no manufacturer's association for portable batteries is represented in the working parties and decision bodies for ADR regulations.

The EPBA is also very much interested in the discussions on Lithium and Lithium Ion batteries. Spent batteries are collected as a mixture of various electrochemical systems at retail outlets, municipal depots, schools and other private and public locations in different types of containers. The mixture contains various quantities of lithium batteries which leads to their classification for transport as dangerous goods under the ADR regulations.

4) Confirmation of the activities of EPBA at the national, regional or international level

- § For more than 20 years, the EPBA has worked with EU Institutions to help the development of workable battery legislation. We are currently playing a leading role in the EU legislative process in the context of a new Battery Directive.
The EPBA has also commented in depth on the developments of past legislation as well as on a wide range of battery legislation. Several of our proposals have been accepted into EU law.
- § For nearly 15 years, the EPBA has assisted Member States with the smooth transposition of EU battery law into national legislation and also in developing measures that go beyond EU requirements.
- § For more than 12 years, EPBA has provided vital know how for the setting up and operating of battery collection and recycling systems in Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Germany,

Greece, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Switzerland and Turkey. We are currently liaising with the authorities in the new EU 10 Member States as well as the current Accession countries.

- § EPBA distributes guidelines to its members clarifying legislative issues and advising them on the key points.
- § In 1993 we pioneered the voluntary removal of mercury from general-purpose batteries.
- § At our recommendation the European Commission introduced a prohibition on batteries containing more than 5 ppm mercury from 1 January 2000. This was the first step of EPBA's "Two Step Plan", the second being the mandatory collection and recycling of all portable batteries four years later.
- § The EPBA has invested heavily into the analysis and development of best practices for recycling of all types of portable batteries. Recycling is only sustainable in the long run if it is effective, environmentally sound and economically viable.

5) List of Members in the governing body of EPBA and their countries of nationality

- a. Panasonic Battery Sales Europe (Belgium) Chairman
- b. Energizer (France) Vice-Chairman and Treasurer
- c. Gillette Group International (United States)
- d. GP Batteries Ltd (United Kingdom)
- e. Varta Consumer (Germany)

6) Description of the membership of EPBA, indicating the total number of members, the names or organisations that are members and their geographical distribution

- a. Regular Members
Eligible as a Regular Member of the Association are all companies producing portable primary and/or rechargeable batteries anywhere in the world and which, either directly or indirectly through affiliated companies, fully legally represented in Europe, manufacture and/or sell from that company in Europe.

Member List

- Cegasa SA
- Energizer
- Germanos Batteries SA
- Gillette Group International
- GP Batteries Ltd.
- Kodak GmbH
- Leclanche SA
- Mitsubishi Electric Europe
- Moltech Power Systems (UK) Inc
- Panasonic Battery Sales Europe NV
- Philips Consumer Electronics
- Renata AG
- Sony
- Toshiba Battery Europe
- Varta Consumer
- Varta Microbattery

- b. Associate Members
Eligible as an Associate Member of the Association are all companies which are manufacturers in related industries which manufacture and sell products and components in Europe
For the purpose of this Article the term "manufacturers in related industries" shall mean:

- i) Companies which manufacture original equipment operated by portable batteries or cells such as OEM's;
- ii) Manufacturers and or assemblers of special batteries such as those companies who buy primary or secondary cells and assemble them into batteries for use in specialized equipment; and/or
- iii) Any other company whose principal activity is the manufacture or assembly of batteries, which is invited to become an Associate Member by the unanimous vote of the Regular Members.

Member List

- Motorola
- c. Eligible as an Affiliate Member of the Association are all battery associations which have as members companies producing portable primary and/or rechargeable batteries anywhere in the world and which, either directly or indirectly through affiliated companies, manufacture and/or sell these batteries in a European country.
- UFB (Austria)
 - FEE (Belgium)
 - CPBA (Czech Republic)
 - Batteri Foreningen Denmark (Denmark)
 - Finnish Battery Association (Finland)
 - SPAP (France)
 - FV Batterien im ZVEI (Germany)
 - GBA (Greece)
 - HPBA (Hungary)
 - ANIE (Italy)
 - NEFIBAT (The Netherlands)
 - Batteri Foreningen Norway (Norway)
 - PPBA (Poland)
 - AGEFE (Portugal)
 - ASIMILEC (Spain)
 - Batteri Foreningen Sweden (Sweden)
 - VSB (SWITZERLAND)
 - Burla Pil (Turkey)
 - BBMA (United Kingdom)