

Levy on Loose Batteries with Product

About the Scheme

B-cycle is Australia's official product stewardship scheme for batteries. B-cycle was launched in 2022 by the Battery Stewardship Council (BSC) and is supported by the Commonwealth and all State and Territory Governments, is authorised by the ACCC, and accredited by the Australian Government.



What is a Loose Battery with Product?

Loose Batteries with Product are standard size (e.g. AA, AAA, C) batteries included with a product when imported into the country. Products with these batteries may include toys, remote controls, kitchen scales, and torches.

Importance of loose batteries with product

B-cycle is an industry led scheme funded by a levy on imports of loose and handheld batteries. Levy funds are used to offset the cost of collection, sorting and recycling.

Loose batteries with product are included in the Scheme, however collection of levies from these batteries had been deferred due to challenges of some participants in accounting for them.

In 2022 B-cycle collected nearly 80 million batteries for recycling, including an estimated 4 million loose batteries imported with product.

This is an important issue for the Scheme as it represents a significant proportion of the batteries being recycled and of our funding base. For importers of loose batteries, this is also an issue of fairness and consistent application of the Scheme across the sector.

Consultation process

Over the past year, BSC has consulted with industry to identify how best to calculate the levy for loose batteries with product.

This information sheet has been prepared to address feedback and describe the payment options for loose batteries in product.

Levy on Loose Batteries in Product

The grace period for levy obligations for loose batteries with product will conclude on 31 June 2023. From 1 July 2023, participants importing loose batteries with product can choose from the following methods to calculate their Levy Fee.

1. Standard Levy Rate Calculation Method

The actual cell weight multiplied by the current levy rate per Equivalent Battery Unit (EBU) of 24 grams.

2. Published Levy Fee Calculation Method

The Levy Fee per Cell shown in the Published Levy Fee Table multiplied by the number of cells imported.

3. 10% Method (until 30 June 2024)

For companies who are significant importers of loose batteries, Levy may be calculated on 10% of annual sales or imports of loose batteries depending on which-ever is greater. This option is available only to organisations importing more than 15 million EBU or \$450,000 of loose batteries per annum.

Published Levy Fee Calculation

To assist B-cycle Participants calculate their levy obligation for loose batteries imported with these types of products, the BSC is publishing a Levy Fee Table for commonly found standard cell types being imported with the product.

The battery weight used to calculate the Published Levy Fee is an average weight drawn from numerous sources and chemistry types. Actual cell weight may vary from this calculated cell weight.

Rate of the Levy

The levy rate used for this calculation is the current discounted rate of \$0.03 per EBU. This rate will change if there are changes to the rate of the levy which is capped under the current ACCC authorisation at \$0.04.

BSC will ensure all participants are informed in advance of such changes.

Use of the Published Levy Fee

The Published Levy Fee in the table below is only applicable for the reporting of loose batteries imported with product.

The Levy Fee for all other battery types should be calculated using the Standard Levy Rate Calculation Method based on actual cell weight and the EBU.

Loose batteries imported with a product not appearing in the table below are non-standard battery types. In this case the Levy Fee should be calculated as for all other battery types using the Standard Levy Rate Calculation Method.

Loose Battery with Product Published Levy Fee Table		
Cell Type	Weight per Cell (grams)	Levy Fee per Cell (\$)
AAAA	8	\$0.01
AAA	12	\$0.015
AA	24	\$0.03
C	70	\$0.088
D	145	\$0.181
9V	45	\$0.056
6V Lantern	650	\$0.813
Button Cell (all types)	10	\$0.013

Questions

Please contact BSC if you have any questions or concerns about this process at:

contact@bsc.org.au.

REF: B-cycle Info Sheet Levy Rate for Loose Batteries in Product 20230603.docx