

Mandatory Safety Standards for Retail Button/Coin Batteries.

The Australian Government has introduced **four new mandatory safety and information standards for the retail sale of button/coin batteries** to reduce the risk of death and injury associated with the use of button and coin batteries.

A transition period of 18 months which commenced on the 22nd December 2020 has been provided to allow industry to implement any manufacturing and design changes.

Full compliance starts on the 22nd June 2022.

What is the definition of a Button /Coin Battery?

- any small, single-cell battery of **lithium chemistry with a diameter greater than the battery's height**; or
- a small, single-cell battery of chemistry other than lithium with a diameter of 16 mm or greater.

Exemptions — This mandatory safety standard does not apply to:

- zinc-air button batteries intended for hearing aids.
- button/coin batteries supplied in bulk intended to be used in trades, professions or industries and which are **not intended for sale to the general public**.
- Button/coin batteries that have been installed in consumer goods before the consumer goods are supplied.

For more information, please see the [Consumer Goods \(Button/Coin Batteries\) Safety Standard 2020](#).

Retail Packaging Compliance

The packaging of an applicable button/coin battery must be designed to be resistant to being opened by young children. Blister packaging is the standard form of packaging and batteries can be sold individually and in multipacks. Where multiple batteries are supplied, blister packaging must be designed to **release only one battery at a time**.

Button/coin batteries as spare batteries inside the packaging of a consumer good and any spare button/coin batteries that are supplied with a consumer good, where the battery is not pre-installed in a secure battery compartment, **must be enclosed in child-resistant packaging**.

| Order | Test Item | No. of Times |
|-------|-----------------|--------------|
| (1) | a) Bend Test | 50 |
| (2) | b) Torsion Test | 25 |
| (3) | c) Tear Test | 1 |
| (4) | d) Torsion Test | 25 |
| (5) | a) Bend Test | 50 |
| (6) | c) Tear Test | 1 |
| (7) | d) Push Test | 1 |

Testing methods: IEC 60086-4:2019 Safety of Lithium Batteries Appendix E & F

NB. On request by a regulator, a supplier must nominate the set of compliance tests that the supplier has relied upon to demonstrate compliance with this safety standard.

Information required on Button/Coin Batteries & Retail Packaging

Cell Marking

Certain lithium button/coin batteries must be marked with internationally recognised “keep out of reach of children” symbol. This section only applies if a button/coin battery is a lithium button/coin battery with a diameter of **20mm** or more.

The “keep out of reach of children” symbol **must** have a diameter of at least 6mm.

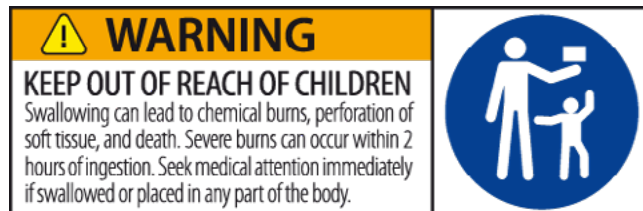


Blister Pack Marking

The packaging of a button/coin battery must be marked with a warning that is clearly visible, prominent and legible.

The warning must include the substance of all of the following:

- an alert word (such as DANGER, WARNING or CAUTION) with the letters of the alert word in upper case.
- a combination of an internationally recognised safety alert symbol and an internationally recognised “keep out of reach of children” symbol,
- a statement to the effect that the battery is hazardous and is to be kept away from children.
- if the battery is a lithium button/coin battery—a statement to the effect that the battery can cause severe or fatal injuries in 2 hours or less if it is swallowed or placed inside any part of the body.
- if the battery is a non lithium button/coin battery—a statement to the effect that the battery can cause serious injuries if it is swallowed or placed inside any part of the body.
- advice to the effect that medical attention should be sought immediately if it is suspected the battery has been swallowed or placed inside any part of the body.



Without limiting where the warning is marked on the packaging, the warning may be marked on the packaging by:

- if there is sufficient space, marking all the matters specified in Packaging (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) on the front of the packaging;
- or if there is insufficient space, marking the packaging as follows:
 - marking the front with the matters specified in (a) to (c).
 - marking the other matters specified in Packaging elsewhere on the packaging.

Web Sales Warnings

Button/coin batteries supplied via electronic platforms should include warnings:

If a person conducts a business with an electronic platform to supply button/coin batteries, the person should cause a warning as specified in Packaging (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) to be included in the batteries' description provided by the platform that is clearly visible, prominent and legible.

Recommendations only – not compulsory

Contact information for Australian Poisons Information Centre should be included with button/coin batteries

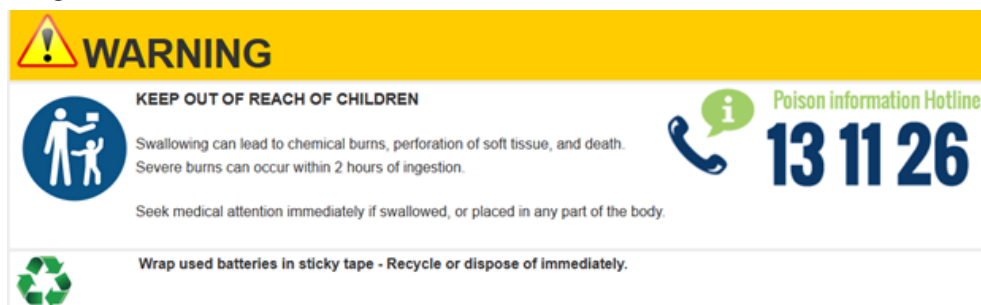
A button/coin battery should be supplied with a warning on the battery's packaging that:

- is clearly visible, prominent and legible; and
- advises to the effect that, if it is suspected the battery has been swallowed or placed inside any part of the body, a person should contact the Australian Poisons Information Centre immediately for 24/7 fast, expert advice; and
- includes the phone number for the Australian Poisons Information Centre.

Advice about the safe disposal of button/coin batteries should be included with button/coin batteries

A button/coin battery should be supplied with advice on the battery's packaging that is clearly visible, prominent and legible about how to safely dispose of the battery.

Full compliant warning



Non-Compliance

The maximum penalty for non-compliance is \$500,000 for individuals or the greater of \$10 million, three times the value of the financial benefit received or 10% of annual turnover in the preceding 12 months for companies. Civil penalties for the same amounts also apply.

For more information, please see [Consumer Goods \(Button/Coin Batteries\) Information Standard 2020](#).