

New mandatory Button/Coin Standard - Advice for Automotive Repairers

***** This is not legal advice *****

Dear member

Members who supply button batteries or products powered by them must now comply with mandatory button battery safety and information standards or face substantial penalties.

To prevent children from accessing the batteries, under the new standards, products containing button batteries and supplied after 22 June 2022 must have secure battery compartments, must not be capable of releasing the batteries during reasonably foreseeable use or misuse of the product, and have a warning information affixed on the packaging, in an accompanying leaflet, on a sticker or hang-tag attached to the product, or on the product itself.

The ACCC recently released guidance material based on the new standards to reduce the risk of injury and death to children from exposure to button/coin batteries. On 21 December 2020 the Federal Government made these standards into law which included a transitional period of 18 months. The law became effective as of 22 June 2022.

Who should read the guidance material?

If you are a supplier, manufacturer, importer, distributor or retailer of button/coin batteries or consumer goods containing, powered by, or store button/coin batteries within Australia or for the Australian market then you should read the ACCC business guidelines by taking this [link](#).

Please familiarise yourself with the hazards and the mandatory requirements as there are various automotive related products that have button batteries, including but not limited to car key, garage remotes, tyre pressure monitoring sensors, accessories, just to name a few.

The Standards include the following requirements

- Consumer goods containing button/coin batteries that are intended to be replaced by the consumer must have a secure battery compartment that is resistant to being opened by young children.
- Consumer goods that contain button/coin batteries, whether or not the batteries are intended to be replaced, must be secure and not release the batteries during reasonably foreseeable use or misuse conditions.
- Compliance testing must be undertaken to demonstrate that safety requirements have been met.

- For consumer goods that contain button/coin batteries, warnings are required on any packaging and accompanying instructions.
- If the consumer good is supplied unpackaged, warnings must be attached to the consumer good to alert consumers that a button/coin battery is included with the product and the hazard button/coin batteries pose to children.
- If the consumer good is supplied without instructions, warnings must be attached or included with the consumer good to alert consumers that a button/coin battery is included with the product and the hazard button/coin batteries pose to children.
- Hearing aids (and any related accessories) are exempt from secure battery requirements but are subject to warning requirements.
- Other exemptions from secure battery and warning requirements are provided for:
 - second-hand goods first supplied to a consumer before the Standards become mandatory
 - professional equipment, subject to certain criteria
 - audio visual and information communications technology equipment containing button/coin batteries that are soldered in place

Recommendations

All repairers should conduct an audit of their products and services to determine if any involve the use of button/coin batteries and apply the new Standards if applicable.

Warning stickers and labels

VACC has produced a limited number of warning labels for members to purchase. One is a sticker that can be applied to car key fobs, the other is a warning notice that can be placed in the vehicle owner's manual in the same area where key information is published. VACC has reviewed the stickers and can confirm that the warning on the sticker conforms with the requirements of Section 10 of the *Consumer Goods (Products Containing Button/Coin Batteries) Information Standard 2020*.

These stickers can be purchased from the VACC autoistore.com.au

For further information or guidance material please visit the [ACCC website](#)

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