

# Productwise Battery Shorts, Part 3: Substance Restrictions

April 9, 2025

In Part 3 of our 'Battery Shorts' series, we look at the substance restrictions under the new [European Union \(EU\) Batteries Regulation](#), which have applied since 18 August 2024.

If you are wondering whether the Batteries Regulation applies to your products, please [see Part 1 of our series](#). For information on conformity assessment and CE marking, please [see Part 2 of our series](#).

## Substance restrictions

The Batteries Regulation incorporates restrictions on mercury and cadmium which are included in the EU's existing Batteries Directive. It also introduces a new restriction on lead.

The restrictions are as follows:

- All batteries must not contain more than 0.0005% of **mercury** by weight.
- Portable batteries must not contain more than 0.002% of **cadmium** by weight.
- Portable batteries must not contain more than 0.01% of **lead** by weight.

These requirements have applied since 18 August 2024, save for the lead restriction on portable zinc-air button cells, which does not apply until 18 August 2028.

Manufacturers of portable batteries and products containing batteries must ensure their batteries comply with these restrictions.

The European Commission has powers to add further substance restrictions in the future.

## Labelling of restricted substances

The Batteries Regulation introduces several new labelling requirements, which will be summarised in a later instalment of our series. At this stage, we flag that all batteries containing more than 0.002% of cadmium or 0.004% of lead must be labelled with the chemical symbol for the relevant metal.

Where it is not possible to mark this information on the battery itself, it can be provided on packaging or accompanying documentation.

Stay tuned for Part 4 of our 'Battery Shorts' series, which will summarise the new supply chain diligence requirements applicable from 18 August 2025.

This content is provided for general informational purposes only, and your access or use of the content does not create an attorney-client relationship between you or your organization and Cooley LLP, Cooley (UK) LLP, or any other affiliated practice or entity (collectively referred to as "Cooley"). By accessing this content, you agree that the information provided does not constitute legal or other professional advice. This content is not a substitute for obtaining legal advice from a qualified attorney licensed in your jurisdiction, and you should not act or refrain from acting based on this content. This content may be changed without notice. It is not guaranteed to be complete, correct or up to date, and it may not reflect the most current legal developments. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome. Do not send any confidential information to Cooley, as we do not have any duty to keep any information you provide to us confidential. When advising companies, our attorney-client

relationship is with the company, not with any individual. This content may have been generated with the assistance of artificial intelligence (AI) in accordance with our AI Principles, may be considered Attorney Advertising and is subject to our [legal notices](#).

# Key Contacts

<b>Edward Turtle</b> London	<b>eturtle@cooley.com</b> <b>+32 2 486 7506</b>
<b>Julia Greaves</b> London	<b>jgreaves@cooley.com</b> <b>+44(0) 20 7556 4221</b>

This information is a general description of the law; it is not intended to provide specific legal advice nor is it intended to create an attorney-client relationship with Cooley LLP. Before taking any action on this information you should seek professional counsel.

Copyright © 2023 Cooley LLP, 3175 Hanover Street, Palo Alto, CA 94304; Cooley (UK) LLP, 22 Bishopsgate, London, UK EC2N 4BQ. Permission is granted to make and redistribute, without charge, copies of this entire document provided that such copies are complete and unaltered and identify Cooley LLP as the author. All other rights reserved.