



What is EXITCYCLE?

The Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection is partnering with Lighting Council Australia in a voluntary product stewardship initiative aimed at increasing the recycling rate of end-of-life emergency and exit lighting batteries. EXITCYCLE will recognise commercial and government organisations that make a commitment to recycle emergency and exit lighting batteries. Only licensed electrical contractors are authorised to replace these batteries.

The recycling rate for end-of-life emergency lighting batteries is not known, but is likely to be very low – in the order of 5%. Used batteries collected in Australia are sorted by chemistry type and then transported to the appropriate recycler. It is expected that a Queensland pilot will produce guidance on issues involved in recycling these batteries from metropolitan, regional and remote sites. The pilot will run for 12 months. It is hoped that a national emergency lighting battery recycling scheme will be developed at the conclusion of the pilot.

EXITCYCLE will be based on, and complement, Lighting Council Australia's existing FluoroCycle scheme for end-of-life mercury containing lamps.

Emergency and Exit Lighting Batteries

- It is estimated that 90% of batteries used in emergency lighting are nickel cadmium (Ni-Cd) with a small proportion of sealed lead acid (SLA) and nickel metal hydride (Ni-MH) batteries.
- Approximately 5 million nickel cadmium (Ni-Cd) batteries are sent to landfill each year which equates to approximately 90 tonnes of cadmium.
- Emergency lighting batteries are a priority for recycling because they are amongst the most hazardous of all batteries.
- Cadmium and lead are toxic heavy metals that need to be carefully managed to minimise their potential impacts on humans and the natural environment.
- Recycling ensures that these materials are safely recovered rather than disposed to landfill.

How to Apply as an EXITCYCLE Signatory

Organisations can apply online at the EXITCYCLE website, www.exitcycle.org.au

For more information

Please contact Lighting Council Australia,

Phone: **03 9859 4545**

Email: exitcycle@lightingcouncil.com.au