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Advisory Note AN-004

Extinguishment of Li-Ion Battery Fires

This advisory note provides important information regarding the evaluation and verification of evidence of conformity for the extinguishment of Li-Ion batteries under the CSIRO Verification Services' ActivFire® Scheme.

With increasing usage of Li-Ion batteries in our daily lives, there has been an increase in documented fires, both in Australia and globally, caused by failure of Li-Ion batteries. Some of these fires have caused serious damage to properties in Australia, while fatalities have occurred overseas, throwing a spotlight onto the safety of Li-Ion batteries.

While a number of Li-Ion battery fire extinguishment solutions have been proposed globally, no Australian Standard has been published to provide performance requirements for the extinguishment of fires related to Li-Ion batteries.

In Australia, the Australia Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) sets out a list of mandatory standards to make particular safety or information features on products compulsory for legal supply of the product into the Australian market. This includes portable aerosol fire extinguishers and portable non-aerosol fire extinguishers. More information can be found here: <https://www.productsafety.gov.au/product-safety-laws/safety-standards-bans/mandatory-standards>.

Accordingly, CSIRO Verification Services' ActivFire® Scheme advises its stakeholders that it *has not and will not* certify, and thus provide a Certificate of Conformity, that any fire extinguisher can effectively extinguish a Li-Ion battery fire.

CSIRO Verification Services' ActivFire® Scheme supports the development of an Australian Standard and/or acceptance of an internationally recognised Standard that includes performance requirements for the extinguishments of Li-Ion battery fires and will continue to work with key stakeholders in the development of such a Standard.

Please contact your local fire brigade in the case of a Li-Ion battery fire.

Issuing Authorities

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COMMONWEALTH PFAS BAN

Solar Panels + the Electrical Wiring sourced from China are both coated in PFOS (Perfluorooctane Sulfonate or Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid) listed as a Toxic Contaminant in the updated Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

Lithium-ion Batteries are also a Toxic PFAS Contaminant.

Due to these 'Forever Chemicals' being linked to cancer, birth defects, liver disease, thyroid disease, plummeting sperm counts and a range of other serious health problems the Commonwealth Government has effectively banned the import, use and manufacture of some of the more prominent types of PFAS (PFOS, PFOA and PFHxS) from 1 July 2025.

(21 Feb 2024)