

Hearing proposal

**Nordic Ecolabelling of
Rechargeable batteries**

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Nordic Ecolabelling

In November 1989, the Nordic Council of Ministers adopted a measure to implement an official voluntary ecolabelling scheme, the Nordic Ecolabel. The organisations/companies listed below administer the Nordic Ecolabelling schemes on assignment from their national governments.

For further information go to the Websites:

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Quotations may be made provided that Nordic Ecolabelling is stated as the source

Hearing proposal – Ecolabelling of rechargeable batteries

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What is an Ecolabelled Rechargeable battery?

The quality of an Ecolabelled rechargeable battery is among the best on the market. Requirements for consumer information are strict. Both better information and better quality is to ensure that the need to replace the battery decreases and this way the environment will be "spared" from batteries in excess. The content of lead, cadmium, mercury and arsenic is lower than the government requirements. If an Ecolabelled rechargeable battery is sold together with a charger, the quality of this will be good – It will be able to recharge various battery sizes and the environment and health effects of the plastics of the charger will have been taken into account. An Ecolabelled rechargeable battery is produced under proper conditions.

Why choose the Nordic Ecolabel?

- The Nordic Ecolabel trademark may be used for the marketing of rechargeable batteries. The Nordic Ecolabel is a very well-known and highly reputed trademark in the Nordic region.
- The Nordic Ecolabel is a cost-effective and simple way of communicating the environmental work and commitment to customers and suppliers.
- A more environmentally friendly business often offers scope for reduced costs in the form of reduced consumption of energy and reduced amount of packaging and waste.
- Environmentally friendly operations prepare the rechargeable battery for future environmental requirements.
- Environmental issues are complex. It can take a long time to gain an understanding of specific issues. The Nordic Ecolabel can be seen as an aid in this work.
- The Nordic Ecolabel does not only cover environmental and health issues but also quality requirements, since the environment and quality often go hand in hand. This means that a Nordic Ecolabel licence can also be seen as a mark of quality.

What can carry the Nordic Ecolabel?

Products which may be submitted to application for a Nordic Ecolabel licence through these criteria are: Portable batteries which can be recharged according to the definition provided in the EU Battery Directive (2006/66/EC) of September 2006.

According to the EU Battery Directive (2006/66/EC) of September 6 2006, a rechargeable battery is understood as: any source of electrical energy generated by direct conversion of chemical energy and which comprises one or more secondary battery cells that can be recharged.

Portable batteries are limited to: Any battery or button cell or any sealed battery pack or accumulator which may be hand-carried, and which is not an industrial battery, industrial accumulator or an automotive battery or accumulator.

The criteria do not include single-use batteries, for which separate criteria exist.

The criteria do not include batteries that are integrated in or a fixed part of electronic devices, where it is not possible to change the batteries.

Chargers for rechargeable batteries cannot separately obtain a licence for the Nordic Ecolabel. Combined packs where the charger and the rechargeable batteries are sold as one may, however, obtain the Nordic Ecolabel. The charger must in this case meet requirements O8, O9 and O17. The entire combination pack must fulfil the requirements for packaging (O10, O11 and O12). On these combination packs it must be displayed clearly to consumer that the batteries are the ones carrying the Nordic Ecolabel and not the charger.


How to apply

Each requirement is obligatory and is indicated by the letter O and a number. All the requirements are to be fulfilled in order to obtain a licence.

The requirements can also be used as a check list where each requirement is followed by check boxes: Yes and No, depending on whether the requirements are fulfilled.

Icons in the text

Each requirement is accompanied by description of the way in which the requirement must be documented. In addition, various icons are used to facilitate this work. These icons are:

- Enclose
-  The requirement is checked at the production site

If an explanation of the requirement is necessary (e.g. in the form of footnotes), this follows directly after the requirement in italicised text (explanatory text).

Application

An application must be submitted to Nordic Ecolabelling in the country in which the batteries are to be sold/the organisation operates, see the addresses on page 2. The application consists of an application form and documentation showing that the requirements have been fulfilled (specified in the requirements).

Further information on and assistance with the application is available. Please see the individual country's website to access this information.

Sales in the remaining Nordic countries

If the licence is registered in another Nordic country, it will be possible to use the Nordic Ecolabel on a larger market. The following must be sent to Nordic Ecolabelling in the country in which the application applies:

- A Nordic application form filled in for all the Nordic countries
- Copy of licence
- Statement on marketing in the country in question – appendix 1 of the criteria document.
- Documentation showing the system of packaging recycling which the battery manufacturer participates in.
- If the battery contains nanoparticles, documentation must be submitted showing that the relevant national product registers have received information according to requirement O5.

The registration is cost free, but annual fees must be paid according to regulations of the individual Nordic country.

Onsite inspections (for criteria normally controlled)

Before a licence is granted, Nordic Ecolabelling will conduct an onsite inspection to verify fulfilment of the requirements. The inspection will involve an audit of the production, and the applicants must be able to present the material on which calculations are based, the originals of submitted certificates, measurement protocols, purchasing statistics and the like in support of the requirements.

Costs

An application charge is levied in connection with applications for a licence. In addition, an annual fee is payable based on the turnover of the battery carrying the Nordic Ecolabel.

Enquiries

Please contact Nordic Ecolabelling if you have any queries or require further information. See page 2 for addresses.

What are the requirements for the Nordic Ecolabel?

In order to qualify for the Nordic Ecolabel, all requirements must be met.

1 Evaluation requirements

O1 Composition of the battery

The applicant is to submit a list of all the substances (metals, other solid substances and liquid chemical substances) contained in the battery. The list must contain the

chemical appellation, the concentration (in ppm or weight percentage) and a description of the purpose of the substance.

”Contained” means all substances in the product including additives in ingredients. Contaminants are, however, not included. Contaminants constitute residue from the production of raw materials contained in the product in concentrations below 100 ppm of the completed battery and which are not actively added to a raw material, or the battery itself with a purpose.

- Description of the composition of the battery according to the description of the criteria for each type of battery submitted for application.

O2 Energy consumption of the production

A statement of the total energy consumption (in kWh) related to the total amount of batteries produced per year must be submitted to Nordic Ecolabelling. The statement must include the energy consumption by extraction and processing of raw materials together with the energy consumed at the battery production site.

Moreover, the applicant must submit information on the energy source(s) (coal, oil, wind, solar) used for the production.

- Statement of energy consumed (in kWh) per kilo produced battery and the type of energy source used at the battery production site.

2 Environmental requirements

O3 Metal content of batteries

The metal content of the battery must not exceed the following limit values:

Metal	Content
Mercury	< 0.1 ppm
Cadmium	< 5.0 ppm
Lead	≤ 10 ppm
Arsenic	≤ 5.0 ppm

Note that the requirement of the EU Battery Directive 2006/66/EC for cadmium is maximum 20 ppm and for mercury maximum 5 ppm. To test batteries for a mercury content of < 0.1 ppm may require special equipment at the test laboratory.

At least four examples of relevant products are to be analysed and all four of them are to fulfil the requirement. For application purposes, the test result indicated by <, i.e. ”less than”, will be interpreted as =, i.e. ”equals”.

The metal content is analysed according to the ”Battery Industry Standard Analytical Method. For the determination of Mercury, Cadmium and Lead in Alkaline Manganese Cells Using AAS, ICP-AES and ”Cold Vapour”. The European Portable Battery Association (EPBA), the Battery Association of Japan (BAJ), the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA; USA). April 1998”

Similar test methods can be approved if they have been assessed by a third party equal to the recommended method in this document.

- Report from a test laboratory showing the metal content of the batteries.
- Statement showing that the test laboratory is independent and meets common requirements for test laboratories described below in "requirements for test laboratories."

O4 Nanotechnology

Nanoparticles in batteries are only allowed in anodes in order to increase the energy efficiency of the batteries.

- A statement from the applicant claiming either: that nanotechnology has not been used in the batteries, or: that nanotechnology is only used in anodes for increasing the energy efficiency of the batteries.
Appendix 4 can be used.

O5 Nanoparticles, duty to disclose all material information

When using nanoparticles in the batteries, the manufacturer must inform on the chemical appellation and size of the nanoparticles. The manufacturer must also show that the nanoparticles have been reported for the relevant national Nordic product registers in the countries where the batteries are to be sold. In the Nordic countries, these are:

Norway: www.produktregistreret.no Sweden: www.kemi.se

Denmark: www.at.dk

Finland: www.sttv.fi

Iceland: www.ver.is

- The manufacturer is to submit information on the chemical appellation and size of the nanoparticles. A confirmation of registration of the batteries containing nanoparticles in the national product registers of those Nordic countries in which the batteries are sold.

O6 Handling of nanoparticles during the production of batteries

When using nanoparticles in batteries, employees must be safeguarded against exposure to the nanoparticles during the production of the batteries and by internal waste management of the nanoparticles and the batteries.

- Description of actions that safeguard the employees against exposure to nanoparticles. Description of how waste and spills of nanoparticles are sorted and handled.

O7 Information on the handling of used batteries with nanoparticles

The manufacturer must disclose how battery recycling businesses are to handle batteries containing nanoparticles. This information must especially focus on

measures to avoid that employees are exposed to nanoparticles."Disclosing" means publishing information on internet websites and similar measures.

- Copy of information for battery recycling businesses on the proper handling of batteries with nanoparticles. Moreover, a description of the availability of this information for recycling and waste management businesses.

08 Requirements for plastics in battery chargers

If the rechargeable batteries are sold together with a charger, the charger must meet the following requirements:

- The plastics of the charger case must be labelled according to ISO 11469.
- The plastics of the case may not be chlorinated plastics.
- Cadmium and lead must not have been added actively to the plastics of the case and of any cables.
- Chloride paraffin must not have been added actively to the plastics of the case and of any cables.
- Halogenated flame retardants cannot be added to the plastics of the case and of cables, and neither can flame retardants classified as carcinogenic, mutagenic or reprotoxic according to EU chemicals legislation.

- Documentation showing that the labelling of the case complies with ISO 11469.
- The manufacturer of the charger must make a declaration stating that the requirements for plastics in the battery charger have been met (appendix 3).
- Safety data sheet for flame retardants of case and cables.

The safety data sheet must be in accordance with annex II of REACH (Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006).

09 Charger - Types of battery

If the rechargeable batteries are sold together with a charger, the charger must be applicable with at least 3 types of batteries.

- The manufacturer of the charger must make a declaration that the charger operates with at least 3 types of batteries (appendix 3). A description/documentation of the charger confirming this must be enclosed.

3 Packaging and information

010 Packaging – chlorinated plastics

PVC or other chlorinated plastics must not be used in packaging.

- Description of types of packaging - both primary and secondary. A declaration stating that PVC or other chlorinated plastics are not used in the packaging (See appendix 2).

O11 Primary packaging – share of recycled material

The share of post-consumer recycled material of primary packaging for batteries must constitute at least 80 weight percent.

- Documentation from the supplier of packaging, showing the share of post-consumer recycled material in their product.
- Statement showing that the share of post-consumer recycled material of the primary packaging constitutes more than 80 weight percent.

O12 Recycling system for packaging

Applicable national rules, regulations and / or industrial agreements regarding recycling systems for packaging must be fulfilled in those Nordic countries where the ecolabelled products are marketed. The following systems are available in the Nordic countries:

Norway: www.grontpunkt.no Sweden: www.repa.se

Finland: www.pyr.fi

Denmark: Not applicable

Iceland: Not applicable

- A copy of agreement and / or a copy of invoice for the recycling system applicable to the used packaging.

O13 Information for the consumer on primary packaging

On primary packaging it must be clear, which type of device the batteries are recommended for in order to obtain the optimal utilisation of the battery. This information must contain:

1. Information on whether the batteries are suited for devices with a high, medium or low energy drainage.
2. Information on whether the batteries are suited for intensive, regular or periodic use within the above mentioned levels of energy drainage.
3. At least two pictograms with examples of types of energy consuming devices suited for the batteries.
4. At least two pictograms with examples of types of energy consuming devices not suited for the batteries. Crossing out of these pictograms must be clear.

- Example on the packaging making it clear that the requirement is met.

O14 Information for the consumer on the battery

The capacity of the battery must be clearly indicated according to the requirements of the EU Battery Directive (2006/66/EC).

”Clearly indicated” means that the indication of capacity must be indicated by unit (mAh) and other numeric indications on the battery must not cause the consumer to confuse this with the indication of the capacity.

- Example of information on the battery.

4 Labour practices

015 Labour practices

The licence-holder must have a ”code of conduct” which specifies requirements for the licence-holder and their subcontractors to follow the ten principles of the UN Global Compact.

If the licence-holder or their subcontractors or manufacturers breach this code of conduct, Nordic Ecolabelling may withdraw the licence.

Note: The UN Global Compact takes, among others, the following subjects into account: Human rights, workers rights, environmental protection and corruption. For more information go to <http://www.unglobalcompact.org>.

- Copy of the licence-holder’s ”Code of Conduct”.

Description of how subcontractors and manufacturers are made aware of the Code of Conduct of the licence-holder. Description of how the licence-holder follows up on whether the subcontractors and manufacturers adhere to this ”Code of Conduct”.

5 Efficiency / quality

016 Quality of rechargeable batteries

The performance evaluation procedure is carried out using two test methods: Examination of the initial capacity and cycle life endurance. Examination of initial capacity is made to ensure that the cells / batteries have a capacity corresponding to the actual discharge capacity of fresh cells / batteries. The cycle life endurance test is made to ensure that the cells / batteries can perform a reasonable number of charge / discharge cycles at an acceptable performance level.

Both a test of capacity and a test of cycle life endurance must be made.

Each test includes at least 4 batteries per size and brand.

C is the maximum rated capacity of the battery and is indicated on the battery in mAh. The highest capacity value indicated on the cell is applied in the test.

The test begins with discharging until the end voltage C/5 current (residual discharge).

Initial capacity test:

All tested batteries must meet the following requirements:

- **At least one of the 5 cycles carried out in the test must have a discharge time of at least 5 hours**

The capacity test is carried out according to table 1 below.

The rest period between charging / discharging and discharging / charging has been set to 1 hour.

Table 1

Cycle no.	Charging	Discharging
1-5	According to recommendations of the manufacturer	0.2C to end voltage ¹

¹The end voltage varies with different chemical compositions. Typical end voltage of conventional Li-ion/LiP cells is 3V/cell and 1V/cell for NiMH.

Nickel metal hydride (NiMH) batteries and cells:

At the time of application, the conditions of the capacity test must be in accordance with the applicable version of IEC 61951-2 for NiMH cells and batteries.

Li-ion/LiP batteries and cells:

At the time of application, the conditions of the capacity test must be in accordance with the applicable version of IEC 61960 for Li-ion/LiP cells and batteries.

Other types of batteries and cells than Li-ion/LiP or NiMH batteries and cells:

The conditions of the capacity test must be in accordance with applicable standards for the batteries in question. The independent test laboratory carrying out the test must evaluate in writing the standard applicable to the type of battery in question.

Cycle life endurance test:

All tested batteries must meet the following requirements:

- The discharge time for cycle 799 must be at least 30 minutes (corresponding to 50 % of the remaining capacity)
- The discharge time for cycle 800 must be at least 3,5 hours (corresponding to 70 % of the remaining capacity)

Specifications for the test are available in table 2

Table 2

Cycle no.	Charging	Rest in charged condition	Discharging	Rest in discharged condition
1-799	According to recommendations of the retailer	30 minutes	1.0C to end voltage ¹	30 minutes
800	According to recommendations of the retailer	1 hour	0.2C to end voltage ¹	

¹The end voltage varies with different chemical compositions. Typical end voltage of conventional Li-ion/LiP cells is 3V/cell and 1V/cell for NiMH.

- ☒ The result of the test according to the definition of the requirement, carried out by an independent test laboratory.
- ☒ Statement from the test laboratory showing that the batteries have been tested in accordance with the version of the standard referenced in the requirement which was applicable at the time of application.
- ☒ Statement showing that the test laboratory is independent and meets common requirements for test laboratories described in the section "Test laboratories".

O17 Quality - charger

If the rechargeable batteries are sold together with a charger, the charger must meet the following requirements:

Test of the charger:

C = The maximum capacity (in mAh) indicated on the batteries together with which the charger is sold.

Reference charge has been defined as a constant current charging with 1C cut-off at $-\Delta V = 5 \text{ mV/cell}$.

Discharging to the cut-off requirement 1 V/cell.

The rest time has been set to 20 minutes between each cycle of charging / discharging and discharging / charging.

Conditions for the battery and determination of charged capacity at 7 cycles:

Cycle 1	Residual discharge	C/5
Cycle 2-5	Conditioning	1C
Cycle 6	Determination of reference charging	1C
Cycle 7	Charge the battery in the charger	

Cycles 1-6 should be carried out in equipment for testing rechargeable batteries.

The charging phase should be recorded in cycles 6 and 7 in order to determine the charged capacity in the reference charger and in the tested charger.

After cycle 7, the average float charge current and no-load current should be measured.

The measurement must give the following result:

- The charger must have a built-in function that interrupts charging when the battery is fully charged. Fully charged is defined as a reference charge with cut-off of at $-\Delta V = 5 \text{ mV} + 10\%$.
- The maximum float charge current must be $\leq C/20$ on an average, based on the lowest battery capacity for which the charger is recommended by the retailer.

- The maximum no-load current must be $< C/50$ on an average, based on the lowest battery capacity for which the charger is recommended by the retailer.

- The result of the test according to the definition of the requirement, carried out by an independent test laboratory.
- Statement showing that the test laboratory is independent and meets common requirements for test laboratories described in the section "Test laboratories".

6 Quality and governmental requirements

To ensure that requirements of the Nordic Ecolabel are fulfilled, the following routines must be implemented.

If the battery manufacturer has a certified environmental management system according to ISO 14 001 or EMAS, where the following routines have been implemented, it is sufficient for the accredited auditor to confirm the implementation of the requirements.

O18 Person in charge of the Nordic Ecolabel

An employee at the organisation must be responsible for ensuring that the requirements of the Nordic Ecolabel are met and there must be a contact person who is connected with Nordic Ecolabelling.

- An organisational chart showing the employees in charge of the above mentioned areas.

O19 Documentation

The licence-holder must be able to present a copy of the application including facts and calculation material (including test reports, documents from subcontractors etc.) supporting the documentation submitted in connection with the application.

- ☺ Checked on site.

O20 Quality of the rechargeable battery

The licence-holder must guarantee that the quality of the rechargeable batteries carrying the Nordic Ecolabel will not deteriorate during the life of the license.

- Routines of handling complaints / claims regarding the quality of the rechargeable batteries carrying the Nordic Ecolabel, when necessary.

O21 Planned changes

Nordic Ecolabelling must be informed in writing of any planned changes that have an influence on the Nordic Ecolabel requirements.

- Routines showing how planned changes are handled.

O22 Unforeseen nonconformities

Unforeseen nonconformities influencing the Nordic Ecolabel requirements must be journalised and reported to Nordic Ecolabelling in writing.

- Routines showing how unforeseen nonconformities are handled.

O23 Traceability

The licence-holder must be able to trace the rechargeable battery carrying the Nordic Ecolabel in the production.

- Description of / routines for fulfilling the requirement.

O24 Rules and regulations

The licence-holder must make sure that applicable regulations of safety and working environment, environmental laws and facility-specific terms/concessions are followed at all production sites of the product that carries the Nordic Ecolabel.

- Documentation stating that the requirement is met and defining the supervising authority. Appendix 5 must be filled in and submitted to Nordic Ecolabelling.

O25 Marketing

Marketing of rechargeable batteries carrying the Nordic Ecolabel must take place according to Rules on Nordic Ecolabelling of 12 December 2001 or later versions.

If the rechargeable batteries labelled with the Ecolabel are sold together with a charger, it must be clear to the consumer that only the batteries are labelled with the Nordic Ecolabel and not the charger, e.g. by placing the Swan Logo and caption on the packaging.

- A completed appendix 1
- In case the batteries which carry the Nordic Ecolabel are sold together with a charger, an example of the packaging must be submitted, making it clear that only the batteries are labelled with the Nordic Ecolabel and not the charger.

Test laboratory

The test laboratory must be independent and competent. The test laboratory must meet the common requirements of the standard EN 45001/DS/EN/ISO/IEC 17025, or be an officially approved GLP test laboratory.

Marketing

The Nordic Ecolabel is a trademark that enjoys widespread respect and credibility in the Nordic countries. While the license remains in force, the Nordic Ecolabelled product/service may be marketed using the label.

The label must be displayed in such a way that there will be no doubt about what the labelling refers to and so that it is clear that the rechargeable batteries are ecolabelled.

Further information on marketing can be found in Rules on Nordic Ecolabelling of 12 December 2001 or later versions.

The design of the Swan Label logo

The design of the Swan Label logo is as follows:



license number

Each license is allotted a unique license number which must be displayed together with the label.

Further information on the design of the label can be found in Rules on Nordic Ecolabelling of 12 December 2001 or later versions.

Follow-up inspections

Nordic Ecolabelling may check that the rechargeable batteries continue to fulfil the Nordic Ecolabel requirements after a license has been granted. This may take the form e.g. of a site visit or by random checks.

The license may be revoked if it is apparent that the rechargeable batteries fail to fulfil the requirements.

Random checks may also take place in the retail business, and these may be analysed by an independent laboratory. If the requirements are not fulfilled, Nordic Ecolabelling may demand the license-holder to pay the cost of the test.

The duration of the license

Nordic Ecolabelling adopted the criteria for rechargeable batteries, version 4 on DATE MONTH YEAR and they will remain in force until and including DAY MONTH YEAR.

The ecolabelling license will remain in force for as long as the criteria continue to be fulfilled and until these criteria cease to apply. The criteria may be extended or adjusted. If so, the license will be extended automatically and the license-holder will be notified.

The license-holder will be notified of the revised criteria that will apply after the final date of validity of the current criteria no later than one year before the current criteria cease to apply. The license-holder will be offered the opportunity of renewing the license.

New criteria

Appendix 1

Marketing of Ecolabelled rechargeable batteries

We hereby confirm to have understood the rules of use of the Nordic Ecolabel, the Nordic Ecolabel, according to "Rules on Nordic Ecolabelling" of 12 December 2001 or later versions, and we guarantee that marketing of the rechargeable battery that carry the Nordic Ecolabel will be carried out according to these rules.

We also confirm that we are aware of the content of the criteria for ecolabelling of rechargeable batteries.

We guarantee that the persons in our organization who market the rechargeable batteries that carry the Nordic Ecolabel, will be informed of the criteria for ecolabelling of rechargeable batteries and of the Rules on Nordic Ecolabelling of 12 December 2001 or later versions.

_____	_____
Date and place	Organisation
_____	_____
Contact person	Phone:
_____	_____
Person in charge of marketing	Phone

By changes in staff, a new certificate must be submitted to Nordic Ecolabelling.

Appendix 2

Declaration on packaging from applicant

It is hereby declared that the packaging does not contain PVC or other chlorinated plastics.

Date

Name of the organization (applicant)

Person in charge

Phone

Appendix 3

Declaration from manufacturer of charger

It is hereby declared that:

The plastics of the charger case are labelled according to ISO 11469.

The plastics of the case are not chlorinated plastics.

Cadmium and lead have not been added actively to the plastics of the case and cables.

Chloride paraffin has not been added actively to the plastics of the case and cables.

Halogenated flame retardants have not been added to the plastics of the case and cables.

Halogenated flame retardants classified as carcinogenic, mutagenic or reprotoxic according to EU chemicals legislation have not been added to the plastics of the case and of cables.

Safety data sheet for flame retardants of case and cables has been enclosed.

The charger can be used for charging at least three types of batteries:

State the types: _____

Date
the charger)

Name of the organization (manufacturer of

Person in charge

Phone

Appendix 4

Declaration on nanotechnology from applicant

Are nanoparticles added to the battery? Yes No

If Yes:

The nanoparticles have solely been added to the anode
in order to increase the energy efficiency of the battery.

Yes No

Date

Name of the organization (applicant)

Person in charge

Phone

Appendix 5

Declaration from applicant on compliance with rules and regulations

I hereby declare that applicable regulations of safety and working environment, environmental laws and facility-specific terms/concessions are followed at all production sites of the primary battery carrying the Nordic Ecolabel.

The following authorities are responsible for inspection of the production site:

As to the working environment (name, address, phone):

As to environmental legislation (name, address, phone):

As to facility-specific terms/concessions (name, address, phone):

Date

Name of the organization (applicant)

Person in charge

Phone