Secondary cells and batteries - Marking symbols for identification of their chemistry

EESTI STANDARDIMIS- JA AKREDITEERIMISKESKUS
ESTONIAN CENTRE FOR STANDARDISATION AND ACCREDITATION

EESTI STANDARDI EESSÕNA

NATIONAL FOREWORD

See Eesti standard EVS-EN IEC 62902:2025 sisaldab Euroopa standardi EN IEC 62902:2025 ingliskeelset teksti.	This Estonian standard EVS-EN IEC 62902:2025 consists of the English text of the European standard EN IEC 62902:2025.
Standard on jõustunud sellekohase teate avaldamisega EVS Teatajas.	This standard has been endorsed with a notification published in the official bulletin of the Estonian Centre for Standardisation and Accreditation.
Euroopa standardimisorganisatsioonid on teinud Euroopa standardi rahvuslikele liikmetele kättesaadavaks 18.04.2025.	Date of Availability of the European standard is 18.04.2025.
Standard on kättesaadav Eesti Standardimis-ja Akrediteerimiskeskusest.	The standard is available from the Estonian Centre for Standardisation and Accreditation.

Tagasisidet standardi sisu kohta on võimalik edastada, kasutades EVS-i veebilehel asuvat tagasiside vormi või saates e-kirja meiliaadressile standardiosakond@evs.ee.

ICS 29.220.20, 29.220.30

EUROPEAN STANDARD

NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

EN IEC 62902

April 2025

ICS 29.220.20; 29.220.30

Supersedes EN IEC 62902:2019

English Version

Secondary cells and batteries - Marking symbols for identification of their chemistry (IEC 62902:2025)

Batteries d'accumulateurs - Symboles de marquage pour l'identification de leur caractéristique chimique (IEC 62902:2025)

Sekundärbatterien - Symbole für die Kennzeichnung zur Identifikation ihrer Chemie (IEC 62902:2025)

This European Standard was approved by CENELEC on 2025-04-02. CENELEC members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration.

Up-to-date lists and bibliographical references concerning such national standards may be obtained on application to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre or to any CENELEC member.

This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CENELEC member into its own language and notified to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

CENELEC members are the national electrotechnical committees of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye and the United Kingdom.

European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization
Comité Européen de Normalisation Electrotechnique
Europäisches Komitee für Elektrotechnische Normung

CEN-CENELEC Management Centre: Rue de la Science 23, B-1040 Brussels

Ref. No. EN IEC 62902:2025 E

European foreword

The text of document 21/1195/CDV, future edition 2 of IEC 62902, prepared by TC 21 "Secondary cells and batteries" was submitted to the IEC-CENELEC parallel vote and approved by CENELEC as EN IEC 62902:2025.

The following dates are fixed:

- latest date by which the document has to be implemented at national level by publication of an identical national standard or by endorsement (dop) 2026-04-30
- latest date by which the national standards conflicting with the document have to be withdrawn (dow) 2028-04-30

This document supersedes EN IEC 62902:2019 and all of its amendments and corrigenda (if any).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CENELEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

Any feedback and questions on this document should be directed to the users' national committee. A complete listing of these bodies can be found on the CENELEC website.

Endorsement notice

The text of the International Standard IEC 62902:2025 was approved by CENELEC as a European Standard without any modification.

In the official version, for Bibliography, the following notes have to be added for the standard indicated:

IEC 60622	NOTE	Approved as EN 60622
IEC 61056 (series)	NOTE	Approved as EN 61056 (series)
IEC 61951-1	NOTE	Approved as EN 61951-1
IEC 61951-2	NOTE	Approved as EN 61951-2
IEC 62620:2014	NOTE	Approved as EN 62620:2015 (not modified)
IEC 62675	NOTE	Approved as EN 62675

IEC 62902

Edition 2.0 2025-02

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

colour inside

Secondary cells and batteries – Marking symbols for identification of their chemistry

Batteries d'accumulateurs – Symboles de marquage pour l'identification de leur caractéristique chimique

IEC 62902:2025-02(en-fr)

IEC Secretariat
3, rue de Varembé
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 919 02 11
info@iec.ch
www.iec.ch

About the IEC
The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is the leading global organization that prepares and publishes International Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies.

About IEC publications
The technical content of IEC publications is kept under constant review by the IEC. Please make sure that you have the latest edition, a corrigendum or an amendment might have been published.

IEC publications search - webstore.iec.ch/advsearchform
The advanced search enables to find IEC publications by a variety of criteria (reference number, text, technical committee, …). It also gives information on projects, replaced and withdrawn publications.

IEC Just Published - webstore.iec.ch/justpublished
Stay up to date on all new IEC publications. Just Published details all new publications released. Available online and once a month by email.

IEC Customer Service Centre - webstore.iec.ch/csc
If you wish to give us your feedback on this publication or need further assistance, please contact the Customer Service Centre: sales@iec.ch.

IEC Products & Services Portal - products.iec.ch
Discover our powerful search engine and read freely all the publications previews, graphical symbols and the glossary. With a subscription you will always have access to up to date content tailored to your needs.

Electropedia - www.electropedia.org
The world's leading online dictionary on electrotechnology, containing more than 22 500 terminological entries in English and French, with equivalent terms in 25 additional languages. Also known as the International Electrotechnical Vocabulary (IEV) online.

A propos de l'IEC
La Commission Electrotechnique Internationale (IEC) est la première organisation mondiale qui élabore et publie des Normes internationales pour tout ce qui a trait à l'électricité, à l'électronique et aux technologies apparentées.

A propos des publications IEC
Le contenu technique des publications IEC est constamment revu. Veuillez vous assurer que vous possédez l'édition la plus récente, un corrigendum ou amendement peut avoir été publié.

Recherche de publications IEC - webstore.iec.ch/advsearchform
La recherche avancée permet de trouver des publications IEC en utilisant différents critères (numéro de référence, texte, comité d'études, …). Elle donne aussi des informations sur les projets et les publications remplacées ou retirées.

IEC Just Published - webstore.iec.ch/justpublished
Restez informé sur les nouvelles publications IEC. Just Published détaille les nouvelles publications parues. Disponible en ligne et une fois par mois par email.

Service Clients - webstore.iec.ch/csc
Si vous désirez nous donner des commentaires sur cette publication ou si vous avez des questions contactez-nous: sales@iec.ch.

IEC Products & Services Portal - products.iec.ch
Découvrez notre puissant moteur de recherche et consultez gratuitement tous les aperçus des publications, symboles graphiques et le glossaire. Avec un abonnement, vous aurez toujours accès à un contenu à jour adapté à vos besoins.

Electropedia - www.electropedia.org
Le premier dictionnaire d'électrotechnologie en ligne au monde, avec plus de 22 500 articles terminologiques en anglais et en français, ainsi que les termes équivalents dans 25 langues additionnelles. Egalement appelé Vocabulaire Electrotechnique International (IEV) en ligne.

IEC 62902

Edition 2.0 2025-02

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

colour inside

Secondary cells and batteries – Marking symbols for identification of their chemistry

Batteries d'accumulateurs – Symboles de marquage pour l'identification de leur caractéristique chimique

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

COMMISSION ELECTROTECHNIQUE INTERNATIONALE

ICS 29.220.20; 29.220.30

ISBN 978-2-8327-0098-3

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

_____

SECONDARY CELLS AND BATTERIES – MARKING SYMBOLS FOR IDENTIFICATION OF THEIR CHEMISTRY

FOREWORD

1) The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is a worldwide organization for standardization comprising all national electrotechnical committees (IEC National Committees). The object of IEC is to promote international co-operation on all questions concerning standardization in the electrical and electronic fields. To this end and in addition to other activities, IEC publishes International Standards, Technical Specifications, Technical Reports, Publicly Available Specifications (PAS) and Guides (hereafter referred to as "IEC Publication(s)"). Their preparation is entrusted to technical committees; any IEC National Committee interested in the subject dealt with may participate in this preparatory work. International, governmental and non-governmental organizations liaising with the IEC also participate in this preparation. IEC collaborates closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in accordance with conditions determined by agreement between the two organizations.
2) The formal decisions or agreements of IEC on technical matters express, as nearly as possible, an international consensus of opinion on the relevant subjects since each technical committee has representation from all interested IEC National Committees.
3) IEC Publications have the form of recommendations for international use and are accepted by IEC National Committees in that sense. While all reasonable efforts are made to ensure that the technical content of IEC Publications is accurate, IEC cannot be held responsible for the way in which they are used or for any misinterpretation by any end user.
4) In order to promote international uniformity, IEC National Committees undertake to apply IEC Publications transparently to the maximum extent possible in their national and regional publications. Any divergence between any IEC Publication and the corresponding national or regional publication shall be clearly indicated in the latter.
5) IEC itself does not provide any attestation of conformity. Independent certification bodies provide conformity assessment services and, in some areas, access to IEC marks of conformity. IEC is not responsible for any services carried out by independent certification bodies.
6) All users should ensure that they have the latest edition of this publication.
7) No liability shall attach to IEC or its directors, employees, servants or agents including individual experts and members of its technical committees and IEC National Committees for any personal injury, property damage or other damage of any nature whatsoever, whether direct or indirect, or for costs (including legal fees) and expenses arising out of the publication, use of, or reliance upon, this IEC Publication or any other IEC Publications.
8) Attention is drawn to the Normative references cited in this publication. Use of the referenced publications is indispensable for the correct application of this publication.
9) IEC draws attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). IEC takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, IEC had not received notice of (a) patent(s), which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at https://patents.iec.ch. IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

IEC 62902 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 21: Secondary cells and batteries. It is an International Standard.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2019. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

a) Addition of an Introduction;
b) Addition of exemptions and clarifications for the marking background colour requirement;
c) Addition of a calculation method for the battery volume;
d) Addition of a new note to the Scope;
e) Addition of a term and definition for the principal display panel;
f) Addition of further chemistry information for Li-ion batteries;

g) Addition of a new subclause on adaptive size;

h) Clarification of the test methods for durability and permanence of the marking.

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

Draft	Report on voting
21/1195/CDV	21/1208/RVC

Full information on the voting for its approval can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

The language used for the development of this International Standard is English.

This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs. The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at www.iec.ch/publications.

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under webstore.iec.ch in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn, or
- revised.

IMPORTANT – The "colour inside" logo on the cover page of this document indicates that it contains colours which are considered to be useful for the correct understanding of its contents. Users should therefore print this document using a colour printer.

INTRODUCTION

This document introduces uniform marking symbols for the identification of the secondary battery chemistries prevailing on the market. A primary reason is that lead smelters around the world are reporting increasing numbers of lithium ion batteries finding their way into the lead-acid battery waste stream. Because the shape and design of these batteries sometimes is very similar, it can be difficult for sorting facilities and battery smelters to distinguish one technology from the other if there is no clear identification of the battery chemistry by marking symbols.

Processing lithium ion batteries within a lead smelter, e-waste facility, or municipal waste sorting facility, can result in fire or explosions, with numerous accidents or near-accidents already reported in European and US recycling facilities.

Besides lead-acid and lithium ion batteries, the labelling scheme should also apply to other battery chemistries with a significant market share, such as nickel metal hydride and nickel cadmium. Other batteries, such as sodium ion batteries, should be included in the marking scheme when their market share becomes significant.

A clear identification of the battery chemistry would be helpful throughout the entire battery lifetime, i.e. from the selection and purchase of a new battery (e.g. by economic operators as well as end users), to transportation, installation and use of the battery and then to waste battery collection, sorting, storage and treatment.

The following standards and recommendations were considered during the development of this document.

The Battery Association of Japan (BAJ) has issued "Guidelines for Recycle Mark on rechargeable cells and batteries for portable applications" which include an optional colour code system for identifying major (rechargeable) battery chemistries: Pb, Ni-Cd, Ni-MH, and Li-ion. These guidelines also distinguish different cathode materials as well as important impurities (mostly from the anode material)[1].

Call2Recycle has introduced in Canada and the United States of America a licensed labelling program for batteries. It is a non-profit organization that collects and recycles batteries on behalf of companies that pay a fee to license the label.

The recycling symbol required on batteries within the scope of this document is the general symbol for recovery/recyclable as standardised in ISO 7000-1135:2004-01, see item 1 in Table 1. It is worth noting the information that ISO provides for this symbol: Function/description: to indicate that the marked item or its material is part of a recovery or recycling process. Additional information: the symbol is applicable only to those products or materials for which at the end of life there is a well-established collection route and recycling process, and which does not significantly impair the effectiveness of other recycling schemes.

Battery marking can also be subject to regional legislation. One example being the crossed-out wheeled bin used in the European Union (EU) and in some other countries to make consumers aware of their obligation to make their batteries available for separate collection. Some other regulations, e.g. Regulation (EU) 2023/1542 on batteries and waste batteries, can require the use of additional symbols for substances of very high concern (SVHC), namely cadmium (Cd) and lead (Pb) exceeding certain concentration levels[2].

---

[1] For more information see the document referred to under "Source reference" for item 5 in Table 1.

[2] Regulation EU 2023/1542 does not require the addition of the Hg symbol to the separate collection symbol. However, there is a requirement for max. 0,0005 % Hg for all batteries in Annex I *Restriction on substances* of the Batteries Regulation.

In a comment submitted by Battery Council International (BCI) on a request by the Environmental Protection Agency (USA) for information regarding the development of best practices for the collection of batteries to be recycled and voluntary battery labelling guidelines, it was suggested that battery labels should have a consistent and simple marking (e.g. a colour code) across all battery chemistries to encourage and aid appropriate handling which should, at a minimum, address three primary goals – in descending order of priority:

1) inform and educate consumers to keep batteries out of the trash and curbside recycling, and direct batteries to dedicated battery recycling networks where available;
2) provide consumers and recycling network employees with human-readable information to enable sorting of used batteries among major chemistry families (e.g. Pb, Li-ion, Ni-Cd, Ni-MH, and Li-metal);
3) if appropriate within a chemistry family, inform recyclers of the unique features, components or constituents or both, for recovery (e.g. cathode material).

Table 1 contains a list of recycling and ecolabels that can be expected on batteries.

Table 1 – Recycling and ecolabels regarding batteries

No.	Symbol	Official name	Alternative information	Purpose	Source reference
1		General symbol for recovery/recyclable	Möbius loop, three curved arrows	To indicate that the marked item or its material is part of a recovery or recycling process.	ISO 7000-1135:2004-01 www.iso.org/obp
2		4 in 1 symbol	The white interior shows 4 arrows pointing outwards		Environmental Protection Administration of Taiwan (Province of China)
3		Crossed-out wheeled bin		To indicate "separate collection" for all batteries and accumulators	Regulation (EU) 2023/1542
4		Call 2 Recycle battery seal		Private recycling program in the USA and Canada	Battery recycling Seal usage standards
5		Recycling symbol and chemistry for batteries[a]	Guidelines for recycle mark on batteries	Compliance with the Japanese Law for the Promotion of Effective Utilization of Resources	Tecchio, P. el al., Analysis of material efficiency aspects of personal computers product group, JRC Report EUR 28394 EN (2018), page 60
6		U.S. Mercury-Containing and Rechargeable Battery Recycling Act symbol (Battery Council International model)	See footnote[b]	See footnote[c]	42 U.S.C. § 14322(b)

[a] The symbol has two placeholders after "Li-ion" where codes for details of the chemistry are entered.

[b] Three chasing arrows or a comparable recycling symbol. For nickel-cadmium batteries, the symbol must also state "Ni-Cd" and the phrase "BATTERY MUST BE RECYCLED OR DISPOSED OF PROPERLY." For lead acid batteries, the symbol must also state "Pb" or the words "LEAD", "RETURN", and "RECYCLE" and if the regulated battery is sealed, the phrase "BATTERY MUST BE RECYCLED."

[c] Model symbol developed by Battery Council International for Small Sealed Lead Acid (SSLA) batteries in compliance with the U.S. Mercury-Containing and Rechargeable Battery Recycling Act. Variations allowed.

During the preparation of the second edition, the Scope of this document was subject to intensive discussions. One of the subjects that were discussed, was the inclusion of a battery's energy content. Some experts thought that a limit like the 100 Wh limit used in dangerous goods transportation regulations to distinguish between "fully regulated" and "exempted" when offering batteries for transport under UN numbers 3480 and 3481 could be suitable to distinguish between the different levels of labelling requirements. However, these thoughts were not pursued as they applied only to lithium ion batteries and could hardly be translated into a technology agnostic language. No generally acceptable calculation method was found that would enable the transfer of the energy limit from lithium ion batteries to other chemistries.

A limit of 100 Wh for lithium ion spare batteries in the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) (of the United States) and International Air Transport Association (IATA) regulations for carry-on baggage on board of passenger aircraft was not considered to be suitable for consideration for similar reasons. The same applied even more to a mass limit of 500 g applicable during the collection of lithium batteries according to UNECE, Special Provision 636 of the Agreement for the carriage of Dangerous goods by Road (ADR).

Other suggestions were made to limit the Scope to batteries with one or more dimension(s) exceeding 5 cm or, in a different proposal, 100 mm. However, it could not be shown how these limits would correlate with each other and with the volume limit of 900 cm^3 and why they would be more suitable than the volume limit.

It was also discussed to add the following recommendation: "In addition, the markings may be used also on secondary battery packaging and in accompanying documents when secondary batteries are placed on the market".

SECONDARY CELLS AND BATTERIES – MARKING SYMBOLS FOR IDENTIFICATION OF THEIR CHEMISTRY

1 Scope

This document specifies methods for the clear identification of secondary cells, batteries, battery modules and monoblocs according to their chemistry (electrochemical storage technology).

The markings described in this document are applicable to

– secondary cells,
– batteries,
– battery modules, and
– monoblocs,

when they are placed on the market for end use and when their battery volume exceeds 900 cm^3.

The chemistry marking is useful for the installation, operation and decommissioning phases in the battery's life cycle.

Many recycling processes are chemistry specific, thus undesired events can occur when a battery which is not of the appropriate chemistry enters a given recycling process. Therefore, the battery is marked so as to identify its chemistry to ensure safe handling during sorting and recycling processes.

This document defines the conditions of use of the markings indicating the chemistry of these secondary batteries.

The details of markings and their application are defined in this document.

NOTE The 900 cm^3 limit has been chosen because it is a reasonable compromise between larger format batteries and small batteries. On small batteries, the space for additional labels is limited which can result in a readability conflict.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 60896-21:2004, *Stationary lead-acid batteries – Part 21: Valve regulated types – Methods of test*

IEC 60896-22:2004, *Stationary lead-acid batteries – Part 22: Valve regulated types – Requirements*

IEC 61960-3:2017, *Secondary cells and batteries containing alkaline or other non-acid electrolytes – Secondary lithium cells and batteries for portable applications – Part 3: Prismatic and cylindrical lithium secondary cells and batteries made from them*

ISO 7000*, Graphical symbols for use on equipment* (available at http://www.graphical-symbols.info/equipment)

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at http://www.iso.org/obp

3.1
cell
basic functional unit, consisting of an assembly of electrodes, electrolyte, container, terminals and usually separators that is a source of electric energy obtained by direct conversion of chemical energy

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-482:2004, 482-01-01, modified – The Note to entry has been deleted.]

3.2
secondary cell
cell which is designated to be electrically recharged

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-482:2004, 482-01-03, modified – The Note to entry has been deleted.]

3.3
battery
one or more cells fitted with devices necessary for use, for example case, terminals, marking and protective devices

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-482:2004, 482-01-04]

3.4
battery volume
displacement of the battery

Note 1 to entry: Refer to Annex B for a method for the calculation of the displacement of a battery.

3.5
battery module
group of cells connected together either in a series and/or parallel configuration with or without protective devices (e.g. fuse or positive temperature coefficient, PTC) and monitoring circuitry

[SOURCE: IEC 62620:2023, 3.8, modified – The word "battery" has been added to the term, and "positive temperature coefficient" to the definition.]

3.6
monobloc battery
battery, with multiple separate but electrically connected cell compartments each of which is designed to house an assembly of electrodes, electrolyte, terminals or intercell connections and possible separators

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-482:2004, 482-02-17, modified –The word "interconnections" has been replaced with "intercell connections" in the definition and the Note to entry has been deleted.]