

Rules for Collecting Mobile Phones with Batteries

Each country has specific regulations regarding the reuse of mobile phones and their batteries to ensure safety, sustainability, and environmental protection.

Mobile Phones

- **Data Wiping:** Before a mobile phone is reused or recycled, all personal and business data must be completely removed. A factory reset is a basic step, but professional data destruction is recommended for added security.
- **Refurbishment:** Phones in good condition can be repaired and reintroduced to the market. This process includes replacing faulty components and updating software to extend the device's lifespan.

Batteries

- **Safe Removal:** When dismantling mobile phones, batteries must be carefully removed to prevent damage, as damaged lithium batteries can pose a fire hazard.
- **Storage and Transport:** Discarded batteries must be stored and transported according to **PGS 37** guidelines. They must be protected from moisture, extreme temperatures, and mechanical damage.
- **Recycling:** Batteries contain valuable and potentially hazardous materials. They should be disposed of at certified collection points for proper recycling.
- **Accessibility:** According to EU regulations, batteries in portable devices like mobile phones must be easily replaceable. They should not be permanently glued, allowing for easy replacement and recycling.

Regulations for Collectors

Companies collecting old mobile phones without being the original manufacturer or importer must comply with specific regulations for processing and reusing these devices and their batteries.

Collection Regulations

Although **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** primarily applies to manufacturers and importers, collection companies must comply with applicable waste management and recycling regulations. These include safely storing, transporting, and processing discarded electronic devices and batteries. Additionally, they must adhere to environmental laws and any specific requirements for handling electronic waste.

Reuse Assessment

Collectors are responsible for determining whether a collected phone and its battery are suitable for direct reuse. This involves assessing whether the device and battery meet the necessary safety and performance standards. If there is any doubt or if the battery is damaged, it must be recycled according to the **PGS 37** guidelines for storage and transport.

Transporting Used Mobile Phones with Batteries

When transporting used mobile phones with built-in batteries that are suitable for reuse, companies must comply with specific regulations to ensure transport safety. Requirements vary depending on the battery type and the chosen transport mode (e.g., road, air, or sea).

General Requirements

- **Packaging:** Devices must be packaged in a way that protects the batteries from damage and short circuits. This may include using sturdy, non-conductive materials and covering exposed terminals or connectors.
- **Labeling:** Depending on the quantity and type of batteries, specific labeling requirements may apply. Proper labels indicating that the package contains lithium batteries are essential.
- **Documentation:** For certain quantities or types of batteries, additional documentation may be required, such as a transport document specifying the battery type and contents.

Special Considerations for Lithium-Ion Batteries

Lithium-ion batteries, commonly used in mobile phones, are subject to specific regulations due to potential risks. For air transport, lithium-ion batteries must not exceed **30% of their charge capacity**. Additionally, there are restrictions on the number of batteries per shipment, and specific packaging requirements may apply.

Recommendations

It is advisable to consult the latest guidelines from:

- **International Air Transport Association (IATA)**
- **International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code**

Additionally, carriers such as UPS may have specific instructions and restrictions for shipping devices with built-in batteries.

By adhering to these regulations, companies can ensure the safe transport of used mobile phones with batteries intended for reuse.