



PAS 7055:2021 – Button and coin batteries – Safety requirements

What is it?

PAS 7055 is a vital tool to help protect vulnerable consumers, particularly children, against the dangers of ingesting button batteries. The safety requirements in the PAS cover every consumer touchpoint with button batteries, minimizing the risk of harm throughout a battery's lifecycle. It was sponsored by the [Office for Product Safety and Standards](#) (OPSS) and is free to download.

Published: 2021

Who should use it

The PAS provides good practice requirements for all businesses involved in the marketing, sale, distribution, use and safe disposal of button and coin batteries. This includes manufacturers of consumer products that contain these batteries.

How will it benefit consumers?

The collaborative initiative between industry, regulators and consumer groups – including the Consumer and Public Interest Network (CPIN), the [Child Accident Prevention Trust](#) (CAPT), the [Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents](#) (RoSPA) and [Electrical Safety First](#) (ESF) – ensures that PAS 7055 delivers against consumer need based on real-life use of button and coin batteries.

It minimizes the risk of children dying or being seriously injured by requiring good practice for marketing, packaging, instructions, the security of batteries when in products and the labelling on those products, and the safe disposal of batteries.

Why should responsible organizations use this standard?

Put simply, by using this standard organizations could help save lives. To add weight to this moral imperative, there are some clear business benefits to using the PAS, including:

- The practical requirements outlined in the PAS provide a consistent approach to protect vulnerable consumers that may come into contact with button batteries and products that contain them.
- It supports organizations to understand what's required to minimize the risk of harm caused by the accidental ingestion of button and coin batteries.
- Following the requirements of the PAS reduces the reputational damage, and potential legal costs, of being associated with a product that has harmed a child.

The requirements in the PAS also assist regulators when monitoring business compliance with the General Product Safety Regulations 2005 (GPSR). This legislation requires that new and used consumer products placed on the market are safe.

'Consumers expect that if a product could be dangerous, there will be a warning attached. In practice, many button and coin batteries, or products that contain them, have come with inadequate or non-existent safety warnings. This PAS will help organizations deliver essential safety information to consumers at the point of need, and minimize the risk of harm to children.'

Michelle McKenna, CPIN Rep on PAS 7055

Why is this standard important for consumers?

Button batteries can be incredibly dangerous if ingested. When combined with saliva, the electrical current from the battery produces caustic soda that can burn through the throat or stomach and cause damage to other internal organs. Their small size makes them easy for children to swallow or insert into other orifices, such as ears. Globally, as of June 2022, at least 69 children have died¹ after ingesting a button or coin battery. Many more are injured every year.

Risks are exacerbated by the large variety of products that contain these batteries, some of which would be very tempting to a curious toddler. These include car key fobs, remote controls, and music-playing greeting cards.

Some safety standards specifically addressing button batteries, such as those for toys, medical devices and electrical devices, already exist. However, there are many other consumer products that contain button batteries for which there were previously no relevant safety standards. PAS 7055 helps to close this protection gap by giving organizations clear guidance on how to minimize the risk of consumer harm from button batteries.





How to get a copy of the standard

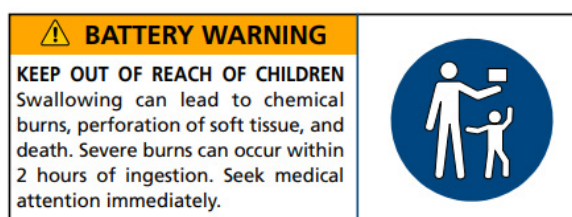
PAS 7055 is available to download free of charge from shop.bsigroup.com


How does the standard address key consumer priorities?

By outlining safety requirements for businesses throughout the supply chain, PAS 7055 delivers consumer protection in line with CPIN's consumer principles, including:

 **Access** – The accessibility of packaging is a key consideration for button batteries. The PAS requires packaging to be child-resistant without being unduly difficult to access for those with manual dexterity problems, in line with [BS EN ISO 17480: 2018](#) – Packaging, Accessible design, Ease of opening. It also outlines requirements for physical retailers on where they should (and should not) display button batteries for sale and keep battery recycling bins. In both cases, they should be kept out of a child's reach.

 **Information** – PAS 7055 provides clear guidance on warnings about ingestion risks that must be on packaging, at point of display, and – crucially given packaging is often disposed of once a battery is in use – on products containing button and coin batteries. It also outlines the warnings that should be in place about how to recognise signs that a child has swallowed a battery – for example in the instruction leaflet that accompanies relevant consumer products.



 **Safety** – The PAS provides information on how batteries must be secured into a product, to prevent the risk of a battery accidentally coming loose and being ingested by a child. For products where batteries are not intended to be replaced, such as greeting cards, batteries must be enclosed in a fully sealed unit.