



Green Lead Initiative®



Terms of Reference for Members

The Invitation

The International Green Lead Work Group invites participation in the Green Lead initiative from Large and Small Companies throughout the Lead Acid Battery Life Cycle, including Miners, Smelters, Battery Manufacturers, Recyclers, Automotive Battery Retailers, Automotive Battery Service Center and Used Lead Acid Battery Collectors and Equipment Manufacturers.

Participation is also welcome from Industry Associations, Government/Inter-Government Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations that are interested in Environmentally Sound Management, Sustainability and Social Responsibility.

Membership

Companies that are involved in one or more stages in the Life Cycle of the Lead Acid Battery, including automotive battery service centers, are eligible for Full Membership of the Green Lead Initiative.

All other Organizations are eligible for Associate Membership of the Green Lead Initiative.

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| Affiliate Membership: | Requires completion and approval of the Application and Self Assessment Forms and is valid once only for one year. |
| Associate Membership: | Requires Assessment verification of compliance with the Green Lead Protocols. The Green Lead Award is valid for two years for companies involved in the Lead Acid Battery Life Cycle and for five years for all other Organizations. |
| Full Membership: | Requires Independent Audit of Associate Member for compliance with the Green Lead Protocols. The Green Lead Certificate is valid for five years. Full members are authorized to use the Green Lead Logo as a symbol of an ongoing commitment to Environmentally Sound Management and Social Responsibility. |

All Companies and Organizations participating in the Green Lead Initiative will be listed on the Green Lead Web Site where membership status and progress will be shown.

Green Lead Assessors and Auditors

All Self Assessments, Assessment Verifications, Independent Audits, Green Lead Awards and Certificates are subject to approval by the Green Lead Certification Committee. Nominations for membership of the Green Lead Certification Committee can be made from any of the Green Lead Work Groups, but elected can only be made by the International Work Group.

Assessment verification can only be carried out by a trained and certified Green Lead Assessor appointed by the Green Lead Certification Committee and listed on the Green Lead Web Site. Green Lead Assessors can recommend to the Green Lead Certification Committee those companies and organizations eligible for a Green Lead Award and Associate Membership of the Green Lead Initiative.

Independent Audits can only be carried out by a trained and certified Green Lead Auditor appointed by the Green Lead Certification Committee and listed on the Green Lead Web Site. Green Lead Auditors can recommend to the Green Lead Certification Committee those companies eligible for Green Lead Certification and Full Membership of the Green Lead Initiative.

All Verification Assessments and Audit Reports will be shown on the Green Lead Web Site.

Definitions of Membership

Affiliate Membership

All companies and organizations that apply to join the Green Lead Initiative will be granted Affiliate Membership when the Application and Self Assessment Forms are approved by the Green Lead Certification Committee. Affiliate Membership is valid for one year only and during this period Assessment verification must be completed or the Affiliate Membership will lapse. Affiliate Members are not permitted to use the Green Lead logo on products or advertise services. Affiliate Members who fail to validate their Self Assessment will not be able to re-apply for Affiliate Membership for two years.

Associate Membership

All Affiliate Members will require Assessment verification of compliance with the Green Lead Protocols within 12 months of Affiliate Membership. The Green Lead Award for Environmentally Sound Management is bestowed on those Companies and Organizations that have the Assessment validated. The Award is valid for two years for companies involved in the Lead Acid Battery Life Cycle and for five years for all other Organizations. The Green Lead Award will specify precisely the operations deemed to be environmentally sound or the contribution of the organization to the sound management of the Lead Acid Battery Life Cycle.

Associate Members are not permitted to use the Green Lead Logo on any product or advertisement for services, except for equipment manufacturers and suppliers of plant to the Lead Industry and they can display a Green Lead Sign to signify “Green Lead Approved”.

Associate members in the Lead Industry and active in the Lead Acid Battery Life Cycle can apply to renew Associate Membership only once, thereafter they will be required to undergo an Independent Audit for compliance with the Green Lead protocols or forfeit their Associate Membership. Associate Members can apply for an Independent Audit at any time during Associate Membership Status.

Organizations such as Industry Associations and NGOs that are not active in the Life Cycle of the Lead Acid Battery can apply to have their Associate Membership Status renewed for an indefinite number of times, albeit each application will be subject to verification.

Full Membership

A Green Lead Certification for Environmentally Sound Management is awarded to those companies that pass an Independent Audit for Conformance with the Green Lead Protocols. A Green Lead Certification is valid for five years and will specify precisely the operations deemed to be environmentally sound in the management of the Lead Acid Battery Life Cycle.

Certified Members are permitted to use the Green Lead Battery Logo on any product within the certificate specification as a symbol of an ongoing commitment to Environmentally Sound Management, Supply and Product Chain Supervision and Social Responsibility.

Certified Members of the Green Lead Initiative can apply to renew Full Membership for conformance with the Green Lead protocols as many times as they wish, but each application to renew Full Membership will require an Independent Audit. Companies who fail to renew Full Membership or do not pass the Independent Audit will revert to Associate Membership for a maximum period of two years, during which time the company will have to pass an Independent Audit to regain Full Membership or all links with the Green Lead initiative will be severed.

Award and Certification Status

It should be noted that the Green Lead Protocols are consistent with the Basel Technical Guidelines for the Environmentally Sound Management of Used Lead Acid Batteries and any Company that holds a valid Green Lead Award or Certificate will be in compliance with the Basel Technical Guidelines.

The Green Lead ESM Assessment Tool is the method of Assessment to test for compliance with Basel Technical Guidelines recommended by the Basel Secretariat and used by the Basel Convention Regional Centers.

Definitions

Accreditation: 3rd party confirmation that certification (of an organization) is carried out by competent teams in a consistent and effective manner

Accreditation Body: entity which ensures that certification bodies field competent teams which operate in a consistent and effective manner

Certification/Registration: statement that an organization conforms to the requirements of the Green Lead Protocols.

Certification Body/Registrar: entity responsible for assessing if an organization conforms to the requirements of the Green Lead Protocols

Green Lead Assessment: initial process (can be a Self Assessment or by a Trained Assessor) to determine if an organization meets the requirements of the Green Lead Protocols.

Green Lead Audit: process undertaken only by an Independent and Green Lead Certified Auditor to determine if an organization conforms to the requirements of the Green Lead Protocols.

Green Lead Assessor: person who undertakes a Green Lead Assessment using the Assessment Form in accordance with the Guidance Manual

Green Lead Auditor: person, independent of the Lead Industry, who has been trained and certified in the use of the Green Lead Process for the determination of ESM by application of the Green Lead Protocols

Certification Committee: four elected members of the International Work Group plus one Independent member, who are responsible for validating Green Lead Assessments and Audits, and for confirming the appointment of Green Lead Auditors.

Non-conformity/conformance: failure to meet the requirements of the Green Lead Protocols.

Non-compliance: failure to meet either national or international legal or regulatory requirements