

# Battery Newsletter

June 2013

Current events, background, positions

Pleasing results

## High collection rates and more users – GRS Batterien concludes the 2012 business year with success

Dear reader,

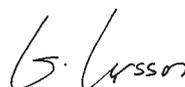
We enjoyed a successful year in 2012. The collection rate remained stable at a high level of 43.6%, and the number of users continued to grow. Achieving this figure means that we are not only exceeding the current statutory requirement of 35% by a considerable margin, but that we are close to reaching the requirement of 45% that becomes effective in 2016. Together with our partners, we collected 14,511 tonnes of used electrical batteries throughout Germany last year. GRS is in a top position compared to other collection schemes in Europe, which clearly demonstrates the high performance of our system.

The GRS joint collection system already ensures the correct disposal of every portable battery available on the market. However, in the coming years we expect a significant increase in the return of especially powerful battery systems, which will place greater environmental and safety requirements on our operations. So that we can continue to guarantee reliable collection and disposal in future, we are optimising the structure of our collection system and adapting the process chain to a growing number of so-called high-energy batteries. As a result, work at the foundation in 2013 is

very much centred around the introduction of the new collection structure which we developed last year. This is based on numerous research projects and the latest findings on how to handle high-energy batteries.

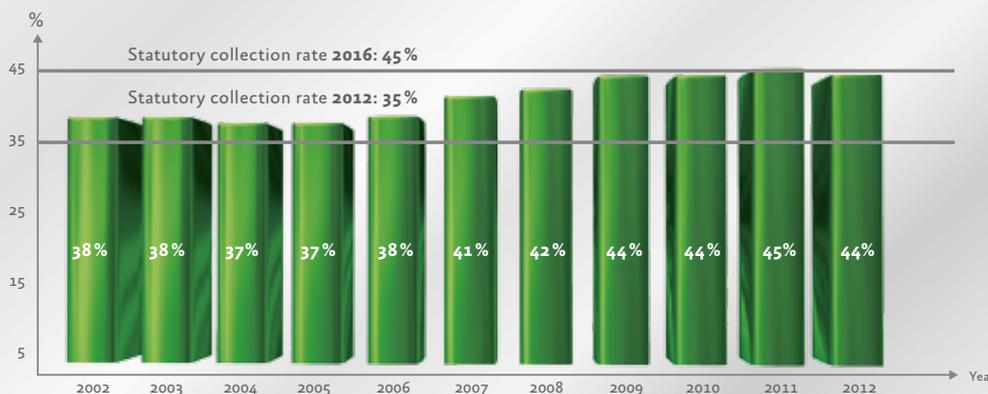
Our success over the previous twelve months shows that we are on the right track – and we will remain on course in 2013. The level of trust our users place in us confirms that we are doing a good job, and this also motivates us to tackle the challenges that lie ahead. Our focus this year is on the successful implementation of the new collection structure. We look forward to the challenges this will bring!

Best regards,




**Georgios Chryssos**  
 Managing Director  
 Stiftung Gemeinsames  
 Rücknahmesystem  
 Batterien

### Collection rates from 2002 to 2012



Separate collection

## GRS Batterien introduces a new transport box for high-energy batteries

As part of the relaunch of the collection system, there is now a further shipping box. In addition to the familiar green collection box, a yellow transport box has been introduced for high-energy batteries such as lithium, NiMH or NiCd cells, which are to be collected separately from common portable batteries. In order to ensure that high-energy batteries are properly handled and to comply with all the regulations for hazardous goods, the yellow box will only be available at qualified collection and return points staffed by fully trained employees. As a first step, the transport boxes will only be present at collection points in specialist bicycle shops and at selected return points taking part in the pilot project to introduce the new collection structure. Once this trial phase has been completed, GRS Batterien will supply the transport box across the country to all collection points that receive a substantial volume of high-energy batteries.



Safe battery collection

## GRS Batterien develops a packaging and logistics concept for damaged lithium batteries

When damaged, lithium batteries in particular present greater demands on the safety of the collection system. According to SV 661/ADR, the transport of such goods is only possible subject to an individual agreement with the responsible competent authorities because damaged lithium batteries can present an increased safety risk.

In order to guarantee the safe transport of these batteries in future, GRS Batterien is introducing a specific new packaging and logistics concept. Highly qualified logistics partners will collect defective and damaged lithium batteries directly from collection points using proper packaging before transporting them to a recycling plant in strict compliance with regulatory requirements.

The transport of damaged lithium batteries is based on a modular container and packaging concept that was developed by GRS Batterien in cooperation with the responsible authorities. The modular design of the packaging means that GRS Batterien is able to collect and safely transport a variety of battery types using a standardised container system.

Lithium batteries are considered to be defective or damaged when any of the following conditions apply:

- + Batteries are identified by the manufacturer as being defective for safety reasons
- + Batteries with damaged or considerably deformed cases
- + Leaking or venting batteries
- + Batteries with faults that cannot be diagnosed prior to carriage to a place of analysis
- + Defective cells have been identified by the battery management system (BMS)
- + Temperature changes (measurable increase in temperature when switched off; heat tinting on metal parts; melted or deformed plastic parts)

# New service for users and service providers

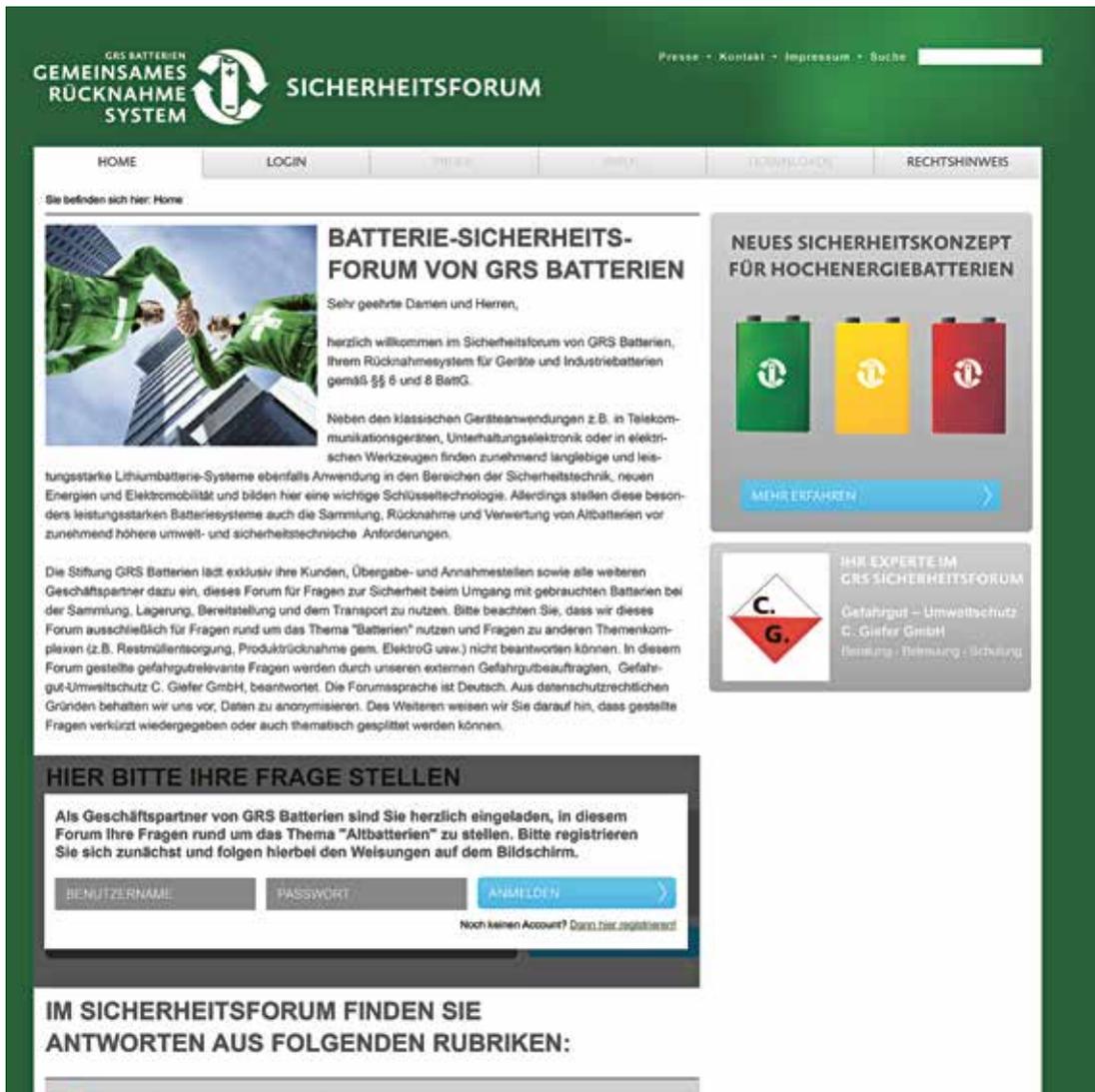
## GRS safety forum starts in May

In the middle of the year, GRS Batterien will introduce a new collection structure in order to adapt now to the anticipated increase in the return of high-energy batteries. The new system is intended to meet growing requirements and to ensure the continued safe return and legally compliant transport of batteries according to the applicable ADR regulations. During the transition, questions will inevitably arise about the new requirements and processes and the ways in which they affect the day-to-day work of many partners, from collection points and transporters to recycling companies.

To provide qualified answers to these questions, GRS Batterien will launch the GRS safety forum at [www.sicherheitsforum.grs-batterien.de](http://www.sicherheitsforum.grs-batterien.de) in May. On this online platform, users can post anonymous questions about the new collection system, how to handle spent and damaged high-energy batteries, and the legal regulations for correct transport. The questions will be answered by experts from C. Giefer GmbH, an established con-

sulting and training company in the area of hazardous goods, materials and waste. Registered users will be able to read, in an anonymous form, all the questions submitted together with the response once the information has been processed. Thanks to topic categories and a search function, it will be quick and easy for users to find questions that have been asked before and their answers. Furthermore, additional details will be provided on the collection, storage, transport and handling of high-energy batteries. A download area will allow people to access information and fact sheets on various topics at the click of a mouse.

To ensure the high quality of content, the GRS safety forum will only be available to system partners of GRS Batterien – a group of users with a professional interest in the subject. To register, please complete the registration form on the home page of the safety forum. Once your details have been checked, we will send your login information as quickly as possible.



The screenshot shows the homepage of the GRS safety forum. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Presse', 'Kontakt', 'Impressum', and 'Suche'. The main header features the GRS logo and the title 'SICHERHEITSFORUM'. Below the header, there are several sections:

- HOME**: A navigation menu with options like 'LOGIN', 'FRAGEN', 'ANTWERTEN', 'DOWNLOADS', and 'RECHTSHINWEIS'.
- BATTERIE-SICHERHEITSFORUM VON GRS BATTERIEN**: A main article section with a sub-header 'SEHR GEEHRTE DAMEN UND HERREN,' and a welcome message. It includes a photo of two people in green safety gear. The text discusses the forum's purpose and the challenges of handling high-energy batteries.
- NEUES SICHERHEITSKONZEPT FÜR HOCHENERGIEBATTERIEN**: A section with three colored battery icons (green, yellow, red) and a 'MEHR ERFAHREN' button.
- IHR EXPERTE IM GRS SICHERHEITSFORUM**: A section featuring the logo of C. Giefer GmbH and text identifying them as the expert for hazardous goods and environmental protection.
- HIER BITTE IHRE FRAGE STELLEN**: A registration form with fields for 'BENUTZERNAME' and 'PASSWORT', and an 'ANMELDEN' button. A link for 'Noch keinen Account? Dann hier registrieren!' is also present.
- IM SICHERHEITSFORUM FINDEN SIE ANTWORTEN AUS FOLGENDEN RUBRIKEN:**: A section for finding answers, with a partially visible list of categories.

## Inspector Energy fascinates young children

Since April 2012, Inspector Energy has been trying to uncover the secret of the lost batteries with playgroup children. GRS Batterien launched this education initiative to make young children more aware about the topics of energy and environmental protection – and it has been very successful. Last year, the inspector stopped off in twelve states of Germany and visited 100 playgroups, training more than 2,400 children to become little energy inspectors. In response to overwhelming demand, the tour has continued in 2013. Once again this year, Bavarian State Minister for the Environment and Health, Dr Marcel Huber, is acting as patron of the initiative.

Inspector Energy will also make an appearance at a number of open days at municipal waste management authorities over the coming months.

While young children are still hunting for the missing batteries, the 'Fascination Energy' competition for pupils in grades seven to nine has now come to an end, and the winners have received their prizes. Children were invited to develop their own ideas for innovations in energy storage and renewable energy.

New employee at GRS Batterien

## Sebastian Kross becomes new Technical Director

In February this year, Sebastian Kross joined the GRS Batterien team in the role of Technical Director. A qualified engineer, he previously worked in the chemical industry, where he held a number of specialist and management positions in Germany and abroad. The main focus of his work has been in operational and strategic supply-chain management, process management and the optimisation of production operations. Before joining GRS, Sebastian Kross was responsible for the procurement and distribution logistics in Germany of an international paint and coatings manufacturer.

We look forward to working with Mr Kross and wish him a successful future with GRS Batterien.



**Sebastian Kross,**  
new Technical Director at  
GRS Batterien

Updated contact details

## New telephone number for the service centre

Effective immediately, you can contact the GRS Batterien service centre using a new telephone number. To arrange a collection or make an enquiry with our service team, please call +49 (0)1806 805 030\*.

\*Calls cost 20 cents from German landlines operated by Deutsche Telekom AG. Prices may vary from mobile networks and other countries.

### Imprint

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