

Battery Stewardship Council Information Sheet



Essential information for importers and retailers Start date, batteries in scope, & levy payment options

About the Scheme

B-cycle is Australia's official product stewardship scheme for batteries. B-cycle was founded in 2020 by the Battery Stewardship Council (BSC), supported by the Commonwealth and all State and Territory Governments, and authorised by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC).

The Scheme has also been given the tick of approval by the Australian Government by its recent accreditation as a Voluntary Stewardship Scheme.

"Our current battery recycling rate is just not good enough. Accreditation of the scheme gives both the public and industry assurance that the scheme aligns with Australia's circular economy principles. It is the Australian Government's tick of approval.

"Accordingly, I am determined to see constructive engagement from all facets of the battery supply and recycling chain with the scheme—we need everyone in the supply chain to play their part in making sure that Australia gets its battery recycling right."

"I am putting all battery importers and retailers on notice that the Government expects them to participate in the scheme to meet their recycling and waste reduction obligations."

Assistant Minister Trevor Evans, July 2021



B-cycle is more than just another recycling program. Unlike other battery collection services, B-cycle provides robust traceability and assurance that collected batteries are recycled in a safe and environmentally sound way, to create something new.

This fact sheet provides essential information for importers and retailers preparing to participate in the Scheme. It details the Scheme start date, the batteries included in the Scheme from the commencement date, and the levy payment methods available.



Levy payment start date

The B-cycle Scheme will commence in 2022. The funding to support the Scheme will be paid by importers of eligible batteries commencing on the 15th of January 2022. From this date levy payers will pass on the cost of the levy to their customers through product pricing. Ultimately this levy cost will be passed on the consumer through retail pricing.

Eligible batteries in the B-cycle Scheme

To commence the B-cycle Scheme, loose and proprietary batteries are included in the Scheme and are eligible batteries for levy payments. The following table provides a definition and examples of those batteries included.

Category	Loose Batteries	Proprietary Batteries imported with Product
Definition	Batteries imported without a product	Proprietary Batteries that are imported with a product that can be removed by the consumer and are specifically designed for that product.
Examples	AA, AAA, C, D Alkaline, Lithium, etc. Single use & rechargeable	Digital cameras, power tools, e-bikes, e-skateboards, drones, cordless phones etc.

Batteries not yet included in the B-cycle Scheme

Certain batteries require industry to take action to establish systems to capture data on imported batteries before their inclusion. Other batteries require industry to determine the most suitable stewardship program.

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The following table provides a definition and examples of those batteries yet to be included in the B-cycle Scheme

Definitions and examples of B-cycle in scope batteries

Category	Embedded Batteries	Loose Batteries imported with Product	Large scale Batteries
Definition	Batteries imported within a product that cannot be easily removed by a consumer.	Loose Batteries that are imported with a product that can be removed by the consumer and are not specifically designed for that product.	Large scale batteries that require expertise or special tooling to de-install the battery.
Examples	Smart watch, GPS units, wireless speakers, gaming controller, wireless headphones, electric shaver etc.	Toys, kitchen scales, garage door remote control, stud finder, torches etc.	Electric Vehicles, Energy Storage systems.
Scheme Status	<p>Not yet included in the Scheme.</p> <p>Industry action required by Jul 2022 to determine which Product Stewardship Scheme is the most appropriate to handle these products.</p>	<p>Included in the Scheme.</p> <p>Defer commencement until Jan 2023 to allow industry adequate time to establish systems and data collection.</p>	<p>Included in the Scheme.</p> <p>Further consultation with industry is required.</p>

Batteries not included in the B-cycle Scheme

Batteries that currently have a viable recycling market or that are already covered by an alternate Product Stewardship Scheme are excluded from the B-cycle Scheme.

Category	Batteries not included in the Scheme
Definition	Batteries that already have a viable recycling market or those included in other schemes are not included in the Battery Stewardship Scheme.
Examples	Exit lighting, lead acid batteries, laptop batteries, and TV and phone batteries.
Scheme Status	Not included in the Scheme.



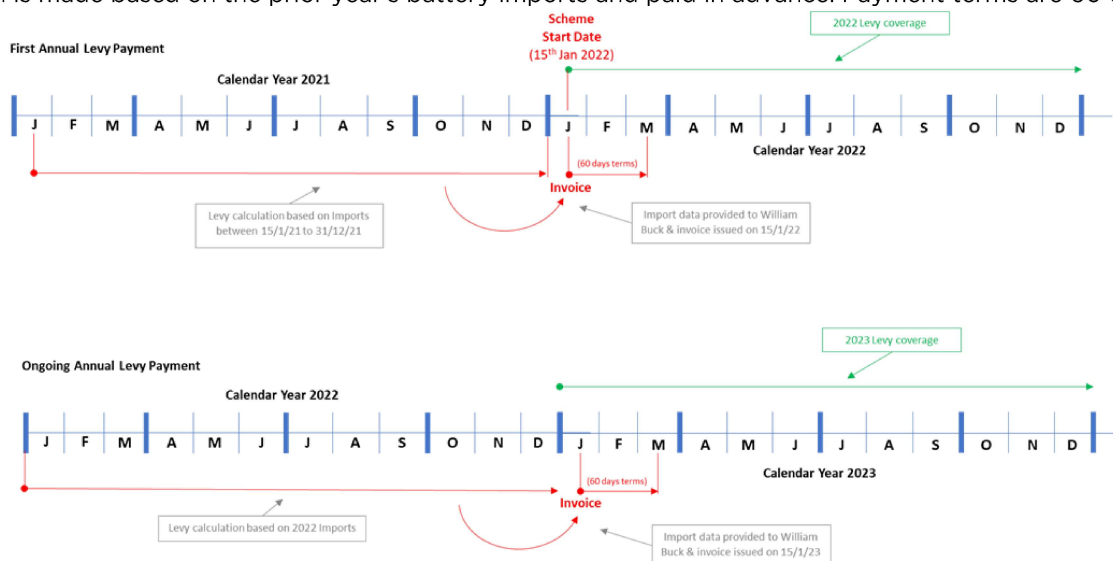
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Levy payment options

To accommodate industry need for a variety of payment options depending on differing business models and financial reporting cycles, the BSC is making available four levy payment options for participants consideration.

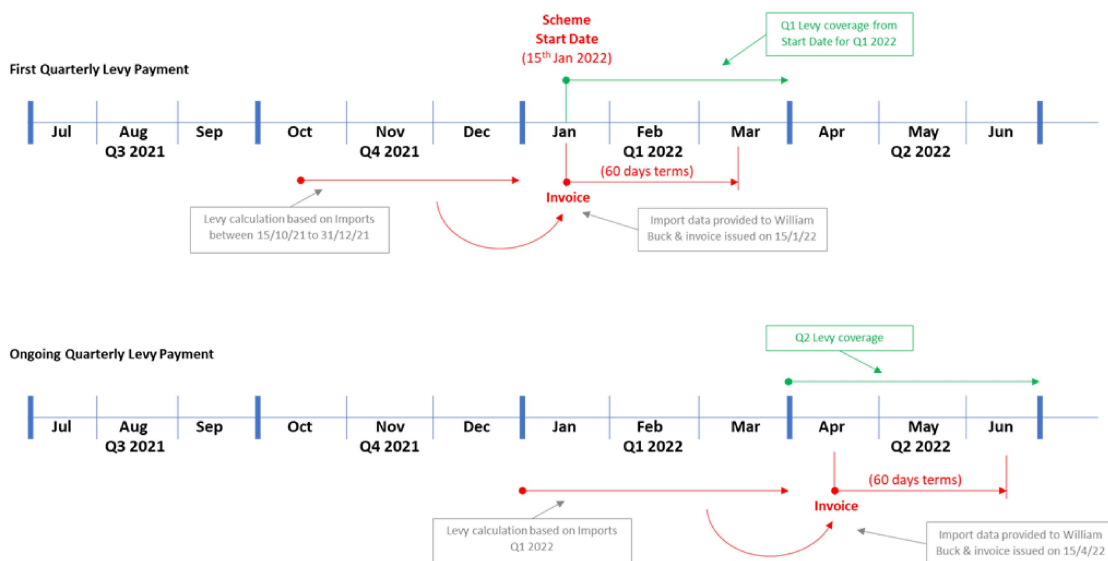
Option 1. Annual payment in advance

Levy calculation is made based on the prior year's battery imports and paid in advance. Payment terms are 60 days.



Option 2. Quarterly payment in advance

Levy calculation is made based on the prior quarter's battery imports and paid in advance. Payment terms are 60 days.



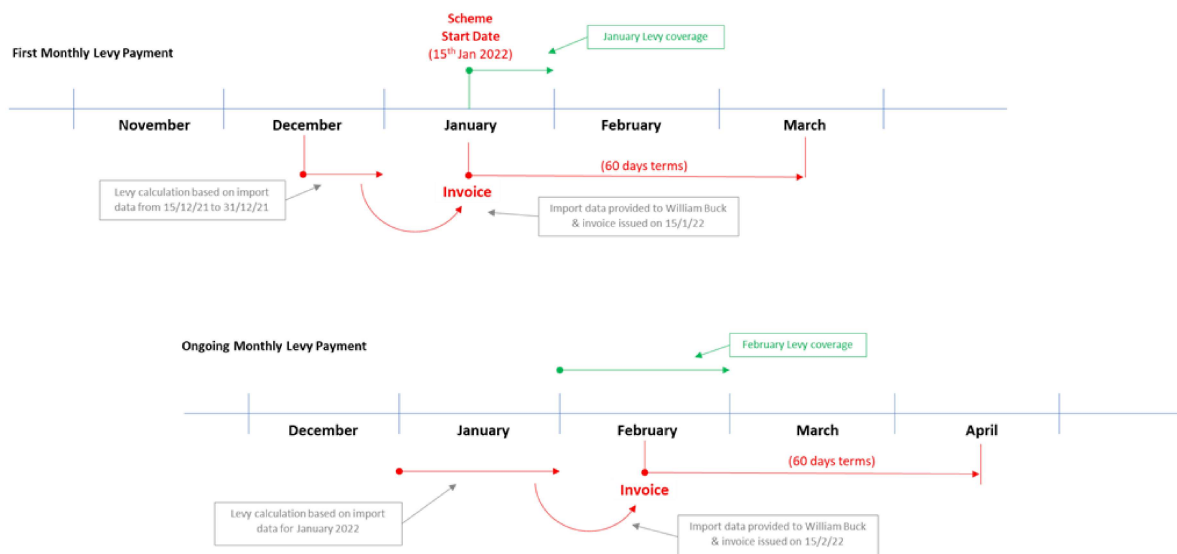
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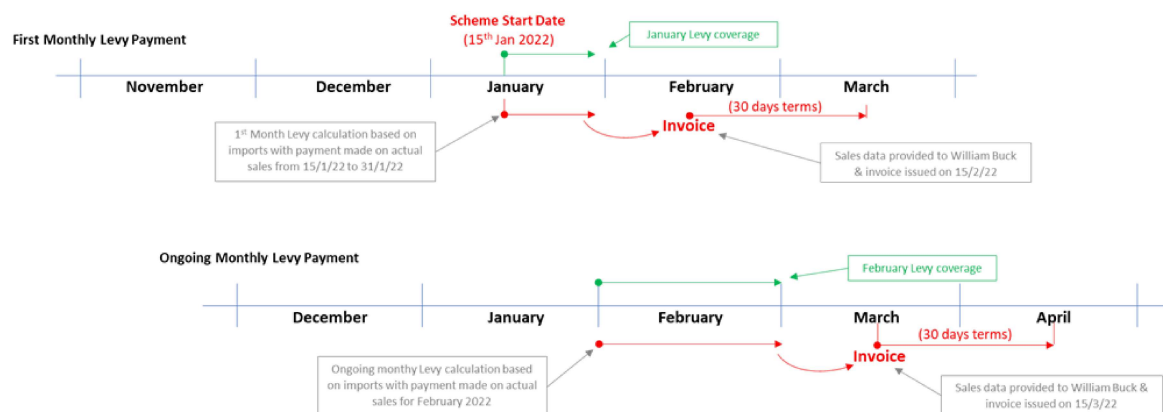
Option 3. Monthly payment in advance

Levy calculation is made based on the prior month's battery imports and paid in advance. Payment terms are 60 days.



Option 4. Monthly payment in arrears

Levy calculation is made based on battery imports however levy payments are based on current month's sales and paid in arrears. Payment terms are 30 days. Payments based on sales require a reconciliation back to imports on at least an annual basis. Such reconciliation may require further levy payments.



Require further information?

For further detail on this Information Sheet or other aspects of the Scheme for Importers and Retailers please contact:

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