

IMPORTANT DOCUMENT FOR EXHIBITORS OF LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES

Thermal Runaway Prevention Plan for The PTSB Ideal Home Show

RDS, Simonscourt, 11th – 13th April 2025

Understanding Thermal Runaway Risks

Exhibitors are required to develop a Thermal Runaway plan for stands where lithium-ion batteries are located to prevent and mitigate the potential risk of a thermal runaway event and to implementing the following procedures.

Key Components of a Thermal Runaway Prevention Plan

1. Risk Assessment:

- **Identify potential hazards:** Exhibitors should provide the organisers with details of the types of electronic devices on display, their battery configurations, and any factors that could increase the risk of thermal runaway (e.g., charging stations, ambient temperature).
- **Evaluate likelihood and consequences:** Determine the probability of thermal runaway occurring and the potential severity of the consequences, including property damage, injuries, and public panic.

2. Prevention Measures:

- **Exhibitors are advised that:**
 - **Battery standards:** All devices must comply with recognised battery safety standards (e.g., UL, IEC) and must adhere to the manufacturer's recommendations for charging, storage, and usage.
- **Charging Stations:**
 - **Certified chargers:** Use only certified charging stations to prevent overcharging or incorrect voltage.
 - **Supervision:** Monitor charging stations to ensure proper usage and address any issues promptly.
- **Ambient Temperature:**
 - **Ventilation:** Provide adequate ventilation to prevent excessive heat buildup.
 - **Temperature control:** Avoid placing devices near heat sources.
- **Emergency Response:**
 - **Fire extinguishers:** Readily accessible fire extinguishers specifically designed for battery fires must be available on each stand.

- **Emergency procedures:** Develop clear emergency procedures for staff to follow in case of a thermal runaway incident.

3. Exhibitors Should Undertake Staff Training Including:

- **Awareness:** Train staff about the risks of thermal runaway and the importance of following safety procedures.
- **Response:** Provide training on how to identify signs of potential thermal runaway, respond to emergencies, and evacuate the area if necessary.

4. Incident Response:

- **Emergency contacts:** Ensure that emergency contact information is readily available including the organisers office Tel. 01 668 3070.
- **Isolation:** If a thermal runaway occurs, exhibitors must isolate the affected area to prevent further damage.

Specific Considerations for Consumer Exhibitions

- **Crowded environments:** Exhibitors should familiarise themselves with exit locations.
- **Portable devices:** Consider the risks associated with portable devices that may not be adequately monitored.
- **Charging stations:** Implement measures to prevent unauthorised charging or misuse of charging stations.

By following these guidelines, you can significantly reduce the risk of thermal runaway incidents at your stand and ensure the safety of both exhibitors and attendees.