

CESAT GUIDANCE: SAFE HANDLING & TRANSPORT OF DDR LITHIUM BATTERIES



Damaged, Defective, or Recalled (DDR) lithium batteries can pose a significant safety risk if not properly contained and transported. CESAT is sharing this guidance to support responders and partner agencies in reducing risk during post-incident recovery, cleanup, and disposal.

Why This Matters

Some DDR batteries may be unstable and capable of:

- Rapid heat buildup
- Off-gassing
- Flame generation
- Internal failure or disassembly

If transported in packaging not designed for these conditions, responders and transporters may be exposed to unnecessary fire and health hazards.

We recognize that not all fire departments or environmental contractors are currently aware of Transport Canada's packaging requirements for DDR lithium batteries. Our goal is to ensure everyone has access to accurate, practical guidance.

RECOMMENDED STANDARD FOR DDR BATTERY TRANSPORT

CESAT strongly recommends that DDR batteries be transported using packaging certified under P911.

P911-compliant packaging is designed specifically to contain batteries that may react dangerously during transport.

At this time, CellBlock is the only provider we are aware of that has confirmed P911-certified packaging for DDR batteries in Canada.

If you become aware of any other product with verified P911 certification, please inform CESAT.

This will help us maintain a complete list of approved options for fire services across Canada.

Understanding the Difference: P908 vs. P911

Feature	P908 (Damaged But Stable)	P911 (Critically Damaged / High Risk)
Typical Battery Condition	Damaged/defective, but not likely to react dangerously.	Battery is unstable or likely to generate heat, flame, or gas.
Packaging Performance	Strong packaging with thermal insulation.	Higher containment, often with gas or fire management capability.
Risk Profile	Lower hazard during transport.	High hazard requiring enhanced protection.

In simple terms:

- Use P908 when a battery is damaged but still stable.
- Use P911 when a battery may fail, ignite, or react unpredictably.



Key Recommendations

- ✓ Fire Departments: Do not hand over DDR batteries to contractors unless they confirm use of P911-certified packaging for high-risk units.
- ✓ Environmental Contractors: Ensure DDR packaging meets P911 when battery instability is suspected.
- ✓ All Agencies: Document battery condition, packaging type, and chain-of-custody.

SUPPORT & CONTACT

CESAT is here to support fire services and environmental teams across Canada.

If you have questions or need clarification on DDR battery assessment, packaging, or approved suppliers, please contact:

CESAT – Clean Energy Safety and Training Council of Canada

Email: info@cleanenergysafety.org