

EU Battery Passport: Many Companies Underestimate the Organizational Challenges

Starting in February 2027, the digital product passport will be mandatory for several types of batteries in the EU. This marks a milestone for the European circular economy. However, many affected companies are not yet sufficiently prepared, warns the Association for Electrical, Electronic & Information Technologies (VDE).

(Frankfurt am Main, Oct. 13, 2026) The EU Battery Passport is a kind of digital resume designed to provide comprehensive information about the composition, condition, and reuse of batteries. It will become mandatory in the EU on February 18, 2027. "There is still some time to prepare," says Bill Reaugh, Principal Engineer at VDE Solutions Interfaces Services (VDE SIS). "However, too many companies haven't managed to do so yet."

"It's not just a matter of providing certain data", adds Patrick Zank, Senior Battery Consultant at VDE: "Even if a company knows what data is required for the battery passport, that doesn't mean it's capable of managing the battery passport consistently and reliably over the long term. The real challenge lies in reliably collecting, maintaining, and providing this information throughout a battery's entire life cycle."

Digital battery passport for EVs, e-bikes, and home and utility scale energy storage systems: What Companies Need to Do Now

The digital product passport applies to batteries for electric cars, light electric vehicles such as e-bikes and e-scooters, as well as industrial batteries with a capacity of 2 kWh or more. This includes not only industrial applications but also stationary energy storage systems for homes, business, and at utility scale which store solar, wind, and other types of renewable power.

"Manufacturers as well as importers of batteries are affected," explains Bill Reaugh, "Companies are responsible for all data generated earlier in the supply chain. They must

therefore establish clear responsibilities, build a secure digital infrastructure, and clarify who receives which access rights and how the data is continuously updated. This is the only way to meet the requirements of the battery passport in the long term.”

[In a new white paper, VDE SIS demonstrates how companies can prepare themselves organizationally, technically, and in terms of data, and presents a maturity model that allows them to assess and improve their own implementation status.](#)

QR Codes Instead of Mountains of Paper: How the Digital Product Passport Is Set to Reduce Bureaucracy

In practical terms, the product passport means that every affected battery receives a QR code. Through this code, various stakeholders such as manufacturers, users, repair shops, recyclers, or government agencies can access information. Batteries are the first product category to be covered, but the passport is expected to be expanded soon to include products, such as textiles or tires. “In the short term, the bureaucratic and administrative burden on companies will increase. But in the long term, a digital product passport will help reduce the effort of information exchange”, says Bill Reaugh: “The underlying idea is to capture information digitally just once and then make it available to many stakeholders. Instead of providing the same data repeatedly in various forms, certificates, or customer inquiries, it should be available via the digital passport.”

About VDE:

VDE, one of the largest technology organizations in Europe, has been regarded as a synonym for innovation and technological progress for more than 130 years. VDE is the only organization in the world that combines science, standardization, testing, certification, and application consulting under one umbrella. The VDE mark has been synonymous with the highest safety standards and consumer protection for more than 100 years.

Our passion is the advancement of technology, the next generation of engineers and technologists, and lifelong learning and career development “on the job”. Within the VDE network more than 2,000 employees at over 60 locations worldwide, more than 100,000 honorary experts, and around 1,500 companies are dedicated to ensuring a future worth living: networked, digital, electrical. Shaping the e-dialistic future.

The VDE (VDE Association for Electrical, Electronic & Information Technologies) is headquartered in Frankfurt am Main. For more information, visit www.vde.com

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