



Council on Safe Transportation of Hazardous Articles

Casey, C.
25-0112

July 21, 2025

Standards and Rulemaking Division
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
Attn: PHH-10
Mr. Matthew Nickels
U.S. Department of Transportation
East Building, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, D.C. 20590-0001
Submitted: Via Email

Informal Interpretation Request - Double Watt-Hour Marking for Lithium-Ion Battery Modules per § 173.185(a)(5)

Dear Mr. Nickels,

On behalf of one of our members, COSTHA would like to request an informal interpretation and helpful guidance regarding the Watt-hour (Wh) marking requirement that is within § 173.185(a)(5), which states:

“Beginning May 10, 2024, each lithium-ion battery must be marked with the Watt-hour rating on the outside case.”

Background Information:

To add more context, this member produces hybrid electric battery assemblies that are comprised of multiple lithium-ion battery modules. These modules are not fully enclosed within a single outer casing. In their current assembly, there are eight lithium-ion battery modules and one of the lithium-ion battery modules within the assembly is double labeled with:

- One mark showing the Watt-hour rating of the individual module itself
- The other mark showing the total Watt-hour rating of the overall battery pack or battery assembly

When service on these assemblies is required, a single replacement lithium-ion battery module may need to be shipped individually to a dealership for install. In this scenario, the single battery module that is required for shipment could be the module with both Wh ratings marked. COSTHA understands that the intent of § 173.185(a)(5) is to clearly communicate a battery's nominal energy so shippers and carriers can determine eligibility for small or medium battery exceptions (i.e., ≤100 Wh or ≤300 Wh). In this instance, both the individual battery modules and the overall battery pack or assembly exceed these thresholds for the exceptions. However, we understand that the presence of two different Wh marks on the individually shipped module could potentially mislead carriers or inspectors since the second rating doesn't represent the actual energy content of the item being shipped.

Informal Interpretation Request:

To avoid any potential confusion, COSTHA believes it would be acceptable to:

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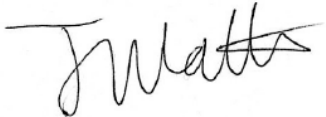
- Cover the irrelevant full-assembly Wh mark (with tape or other obscuring method) prior to shipment to dealerships
- Direct technicians at dealerships to remove the tape or obscuring method once the module is installed in the battery assembly during servicing

We respectfully request your informal interpretation on whether this approach would be compliant with § 173.185(a)(5) when shipping the double marked individual module for servicing needs. If you have any other recommendations to ensure compliance and minimizing mismarking risk at the shipment level, it would be very much appreciated.

COSTHA appreciates your time and consideration with this informal request and we look forward to hearing from you soon. Please let us know if you require any additional details to evaluate this request.

A diagram illustrating this interpretation request is also attached below for your reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Drew Watts", with a stylized flourish at the end.

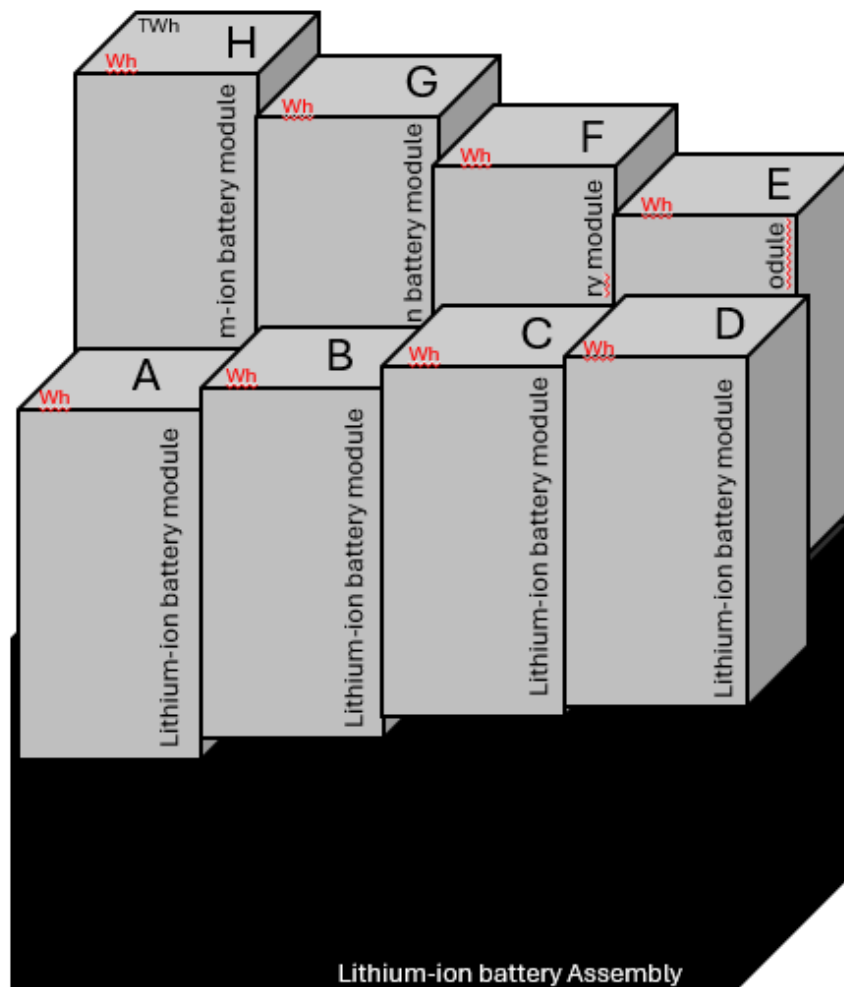
Drew Watts
Regulatory Compliance Specialist
COSTHA

Attachment 1: Double Wh Marking Compliance Question Illustration

Lithium-ion Watt-hour Rating Marking Requirement (USDOT)

Current manufacturing practice is that one lithium-ion battery module within the battery assembly is double marked with the module and the full assembly Watt-hour rating (see module H in diagram below).

Concern: For service part shipment, can a module be double labeled, if that is the module being replaced by the dealership and still be compliant with USDOT requirement?



TWh = Total Watt hour rating of Battery Assembly

Wh = Watt hour rating of Battery Module

Crude Diagram – not to scale and does not represent any type of design or function