

Before the Consumer Product Safety Commission
Bethesda, MD 20814

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
	)	
Agency Information Collection	)	CPSC Docket No. 2023–0004
Activities; Extension of Collection;	)	
Comment Request; Safety Standard for	)	
Button Cell or Coin Batteries and	)	
Consumer Products Containing Such	)	
Batteries	)	
	)	
	)	

COMMENTS OF THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY COUNCIL (ITI)

The Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)¹ welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on the above-mentioned proceeding.

The Commission significantly underestimated burden and did not reflect real-world complexity, such as lifecycle documentation (not one-time effort), global model and packaging complexity, and cross-functional coordination. Under the Safety Standard for Button Cell or Coin Batteries and Consumer Products Containing Such Batteries, all consumer products containing coin/button are burdened with additional markings which are not required in all cases for ICT under the international product safety standard, as summarized in the following table:

UL 62368-1 instructional safeguard requirements	16 CFR part 1263 requirements
Conditional based on exposure risk and allow simplified markings when space is limited, with the complete warning text in the accompanying documentation.	Require warnings across multiple physical touchpoints, including packaging, product marking where applicable/practical, and accompanying instructions/manuals; online materials can supplement but do not replace required physical warnings.
Do not always require color on product markings. In many cases product markings are molded or etched into the enclosure surface.	Require prescriptive warning labels with specific text, symbols, display locations, and minimum text-height requirements based on the applicable display surface area.
Align with international marking schemes (including ISO/IEC symbols) that are commonly used with ICT equipment are commercially available (off-the-shelf labels) or can be easily incorporated into print-on-demand labeling on the production line.	Result in custom labeling which not only impact supply chain costs but also could force manufacturers to make product design changes (e.g. going from etch or molded to physical labeling).

¹ The Information Technology Industry Council (ITI) is the premier global advocate for technology, representing the world’s most innovative companies. Founded in 1916, ITI is an international trade association with a team of professionals on four continents. We promote public policies and industry standards that advance competition and innovation worldwide. Our diverse membership and expert staff provide policymakers the broadest perspective and thought leadership from technology, hardware, software, services, and related industries.

Additionally, the required content of the general certification of conformity (GCC) does not align with European Union (EU) and United Kingdom (UK) Declaration of Conformity (DoC) content that is commonly applicable to ICT products incorporating coin/button cells. Therefore, the requirements mandate a completely new form or substantial modifications to a manufacturer's DoC to support US, EU and UK compliance. The burden calculations should be adjusted to reflect global manufacturers' realistic implementation experience with the requirements.

The labeling requirements of the standard are causing challenges, especially with global packaging harmonization. For example, labeling changes required for size, font, color, and text specific requirements for both product and packaging require more than one hour to ensure artwork is accurate and the label fits on the product surface. The time estimate should take into consideration the time to create the artwork and document all relevant size/font/color requirements. Due to the complexity of the label requirements, complying with the requirements easily takes at least three to four hours per label or more, excluding any other design changes needed to affix the label or hang tags or roll out the changes to all the impacted SKUs bill of materials. These hours can include artwork creation, regulatory review, font/size/color verification, translations, packaging fit checks, document control, SKU/BOM updates, supplier release, and implementation tracking.

The Commission can address these challenges by:

- Allowing for minimal warnings where appropriate, such as placement of the battery warning icon only on the packaging with the full warning in the manual and/or online.
- Allowing the use of electronic labelling (e.g., QR code), leading to online manuals on the manufacturer's website.

Finally, ITI requests clarification on the scope of the standard. The phrase "products designed to use" should be clarified to consider the construction and intended use of the coin cell battery itself, specifically, how "designed to use" applies to products with embedded, inaccessible, non-user-replaceable coin cell batteries; service/replacement parts; and products where the battery is incidental to memory/backup functions. Clearer scope guidance would avoid unnecessary documentation burdens for lower-risk products and help manufacturers focus compliance resources on products that present meaningful consumer exposure risk.

Respectfully submitted,
Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)

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