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EPBA's statement on button battery ingestion

One of the key pillars of activities of the European Portable Battery Association is to raise awareness to the risks of button battery ingestion to try and reduce the likelihood and frequency of incidents. We take the safety of consumers very seriously and we recognise that like many other everyday household items, button batteries can be harmful if swallowed.

Our work is designed to provide expert information and guidance to parents and professionals working with children and families on how to handle button batteries safely and the health risks associated with accidentally swallowing them. We do this via our social media presence which we use to share stories and promote the educational and guidance collaterals we developed¹, but also via our partnership with CAPT (Child Accident Prevention Trust)².

As an industry we are also actively involved in different standard setting organisations to continuously improve battery design and product safety as well as harmonization of caution notices and safety pictograms. Over the past two years, EPBA worked with authorities in the UK and in Australia to develop new safety standards enforcing child-resistant packaging of lithium coin cells as well as a secured battery compartment for products powered by lithium coin cells.

In parallel our member companies continue working towards greater innovation and product redesign to prevent battery ingestion and to mitigate injury if this occurs.

In order to drive change and mitigate injury, EPBA and its member companies believe collective involvement of various stakeholders is essential including appliance manufacturers, parents/consumers, authorities as well as the medical sector.

¹ Dedicated website: <https://buttonbatteryingestion.com/en> and animated video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwLLFJUcphw>

² <https://www.capt.org.uk/>