

PRESS RELEASE:

SAFETY FIRST: BVES PUBLISHES EXPANDED GUIDELINES FOR LARGE BATTERIES

New edition of safety handbook for large lithium-ion batteries provides guidance for safe large-scale storage expansion

Berlin, November 25, 2025 – The German Energy Storage Systems Association (BVES) has published a revised and expanded edition of its “Safety Guide for Large Lithium-Ion Batteries.” The publication supersedes the 2021 fire safety guide and now covers safety-related requirements throughout the entire life cycle of large battery storage systems for the first time: from planning and transport to operation, IT security, second life, and decommissioning.

“The storage industry is evolving rapidly – projects with more than 1 GWh of storage capacity are now underway. This also increases the requirements for safety, practical knowledge, and standards,” says BVES Managing Director Urban Windelen. *“Germany has a solid set of standards and regulations that the industry has developed together, and so far there have been no accidents. However, dynamic markets always require up-to-date recommendations for action – and that is exactly what the new guideline provides.”*

The third edition is based on up-to-date technical standards, established regulations, and extensive practical experience. It considers building code, fire safety, licensing, and insurance requirements equally. Key topics include:

- Structural, defensive, and technical fire protection
- Risk analyses, protection concepts, and organizational operating recommendations
- IT security, data processing, and battery analytics
- Impact of the EU Battery Regulation and other regulatory developments
- Insurability, approval practices, and regulatory requirements
- Special features of large open-space battery storage facilities

“The guide combines technology, regulation, and practical experience. It offers compact, application-oriented guidance for operators, project developers, authorities, and insurers,” says Thomas Timke, spokesperson for the BVES Safety and Standards Department.

The recommendations in the guide will be adopted by German fire departments and published shortly on the AGBF website.

The BVES brought together experts from industry, science, public authorities, fire departments, and the insurance industry to compile the guideline. The association would like to express its sincere thanks to Professional Association for Energy, Textiles, Electrical Engineering, and Media Products (BG ETEM), German Insurance Association (GDV), DGUV, Working Committee of Professional Fire Department Chiefs in the Federal Republic of Germany (AGBF Bund), VdS, the German Fire Service Association, and the BVES member companies for their professional contribution in the common interest.

Urban Windelen: *"It sends a strong signal if all relevant players work together with constructive commitment to establish a common basis for expanding storage capacity, which is urgently needed. This demonstrates a commitment to a sustainable energy system."*

The safety guidelines are now available for download on the BVES website in the "Publications" section.

The BVES – German Association of Energy Storage Systems e.V. is the leading voice for companies and organizations across all areas of systemic energy storage in the electricity, heat, and mobility sectors. As a technology-neutral industry association, BVES serves as a dialogue partner for politics, administration, science, and the public. It unites the efforts of key industry representatives, shapes public and political discussions, and provides advice on the development of political and legal frameworks, as well as standards and norms at the regional, federal, and EU levels.

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