GE Lighting

General Electric Company
Nela Park Cleveland Ohio 44112

This is in response to your request for additional information concerning GE rechargeable batteries.

The battery is a sealed stainless steel container and does not present any chemical hazard under normal conditions of use. However, "shorting" the battery or exposing it to high temperatures (in excess of 212 ^{0}F) may result in rupture of the battery case and leakage of the battery contents.

The contents of the sealed stainless steel metal container include nickel and cadmium electrodes and a potassium hydroxide mixture as an electrolyte. The potassium hydroxide electrolyte contains nickel and nickel hydroxide, cadmium and cadmium hydroxide and may also contain cobalt and cobalt hydroxide. Nickel, cadmium, cobalt and their hydroxides and potassium hydroxide are listed as hazardous chemicals by OSHA and workplace exposure limits have been established for them. In addition, although the evidence is limited and conflicting, cadmium, nickel and certain of their compounds have been listed by the International Agency for Research on Cancer and by the National Toxicology Program as possible human carcinogens.

The electrolyte mixture is corrosive and could cause chemical irritation and possible burns on skin or eye contact. Ingestion of this mixture or a leaking battery could result in serious localized burns. Additionally ingestion of cadmium and nickel and their compounds may cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, dizziness, and possible kidney and liver damage.

Rechargeable batteries should not be incinerated, but instead should be disposed of in an approved Federal, State or Local disposal center or landfill.

I hope this answers any concerns that you might have concerning the product. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at (216) 266-3349.

A. M. Zielinski
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and Safety Department

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