



CLARIFICATION -- BRCA (EB) Rules for LiPo Battery Packs.

17th. Feb. 2009.

With 2009 being the first year that the BRCA Electric Board have officially constructed Rules and Approved Lists for Lithium Based (LiPo) Battery Packs, some details have become apparent in recent weeks that were not clear at the time of submitting details for publication in the 2009 BRCA Handbook.

Therefore the following, supersedes the text as shown in the 2009 BRCA Handbook.

Rule 2.1 (Commercial availability).

It has normally been accepted in previous years that any item included on an (EB) Approved List has to be commercially available in the UK, before being added to the list.

The official introduction of LiPo Battery packs by the (EB) for 2009 gives rise to some problems in this area. The BRCA (and EFRA) technical specs. for LiPo packs were finalised in Nov. 2008. Manufacturers have worked with our organisation to supply samples that comply with requirements by the 31st. Jan. deadline for submitting samples.

Whilst UK distributors are willing to stock LiPo packs, they are understandably reluctant to place orders until they know what is allowed on the approved lists. Effectively, we have a 'chicken or egg' situation.

Therefore, the (EB) LiPo Approved Lists will include Packs that comply with technical requirements, but individual packs may not be commercially available in the UK retail market at the time of releasing the list.

Rule 3.4 (Sizes for LiPo packs).

It was decided to introduce details for the approval of 1S (3.7v) LiPo packs that could be used to replace 4 cell NiMH batteries in some Classes. To achieve the details being entered into the BRCA 2009 Handbook, we had to use information supplied without having a sample of this type of pack.

The dimensions stated are :- 93 x 47 x 20 mm.

Having now received a sample pack, it is evident that the height dimension needs amendment, as the 20.0 mm height of the sample pack includes the chassis location features. A flat sided pack at 20.0mm high would give clearance problems with some 1/12th. cars.

The (EB) therefore clarify dimensions for 1S (3.7v) LiPo packs as :-

Length 93.0 mm.

Width 47.0 mm. (Side exit wires are allowed outside of this dimension).

Height 18.0 mm. (Chassis location features are additional to this dimension).

Sincerely,

Russell Giles & Paul Worsley. (BRCA Electric Board)