

An alkaline battery (IEC code: L) is a type of primary battery where the electrolyte (most commonly potassium hydroxide) has a pH value above 7. In Switzerland, alkaline batteries account for 68%, in the UK 60% and in the EU 47% of all battery sales including secondary types.[1][2][3][4][5] Alkaline batteries contain zinc (Zn) and manganese dioxide (MnO<sub>2</sub>) (Health codes 1), which is a cumulative neurotoxin and can be toxic in higher concentrations. Typically these batteries derive energy from the reaction between zinc metal and manganese dioxide. Compared with zinc-carbon batteries of the Leclanche cell or zinc chloride types, alkaline batteries have a higher energy density and longer shelf life, yet provide the same voltage