The RINJ Foundation

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Defective LIFEPO4 Batteries storing Solar energy have flooded the Philippines

1 message

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Dear addressee:

I am an executive manager of a global Civil Society Organization known as The RINJ Foundation.

Our organization relies on stored solar energy for in-house health care facilities and EMS work in many war zones and oppressed regions around the world.

Consequently we do a significant amount of product testing to meet the high EMS and out of hospital physical plant standards.

The Philippines is an interesting region because it is a world leader in early adoption of household solar installations.

This is why I am contacting you, because of the massive influx of solar panels and LIFEPO4 batteries from China.

We shall as best we can issue the same warnings globally where appropriate in our knowledge.

The Specifics:

I suspect a significant-volume influx of uncertified, hazardous Lithium Iron Phosphate (LiFePO4) batteries under the brands Humsienk, Gentai, Watt Cycle, and Pony Energy are bypassing local customs and safety certifications, posing an immediate and significant but not severe fire hazard to Philippine households.

The suspect batteries, especially those manufactured in late 2025 have low grade lithium iron phosphate cells that cannot be balanced and are a likely fire risk especially in the hands of untrained technicians or homeowners.

Nature of the problem

Telling untrained consumers to bypass safety mechanisms, slice open battery casings, or force heavy loads onto a chemically unstable, locked LiFePO4 battery is incitement to property destruction and injury.

If a cell has run high loads or shorted internally, forcing a heavy load or continuous charge to override the BMS, it can cause a thermal event—leading to toxic gas release and a catastrophic fire.

The sellers of 12 Volt 314 AmpHour batteries I have observed lying to customers about the bad performance of their product by telling the customer to go ahead and use the product because it is normal.

The problem is that many of the batteries contain defective, substandard cells and the customers have no idea what to do when the BMS actually reacts by shutting down both charging and discharging at a low voltage.

In the Philippines, solar battery installation is largely unregulated — no licensing requirement, no mandatory PS/ICC certification for LFP batteries (yet — the Draft Administrative Order from May 2026 would change that). A 314 Ah LiFePO4 pack that can vent or catch fire, installed by an untrained person in a wooden or nipa hut, with no fire suppression, is a structural fire risk at the household level.

This warning is about preventing injuries and even death in communities where a single fire can destroy a family's only shelter.

I do have technical data from our tests which I can share.

LIFEPO4 Batteries are inherently safe. The inert chemical nature of Lithium Iron Phosphate Batteries is a contributor to overall safety but there are limits. But including into a build the parts obtained from shady sellers, cells that are not matched and below specified standards are quite dangerous and step outside the products good reputation.

The Battery Management Systems and their included grade A battery cells prevent mishaps. Poor Cells of B and C grade or defective cells dumped into an offshore market from China are a whole different story.

World product consumption reached a crescendo last year that made products for these smaller companies to obtain, hence they went to B and C grade LIFEPO Cells, or anything they could get to stay in business and keep prices down, it appears.

Lazada and Shopee are hosting sellers of these products and Lazada has behaved in a scurrilous manner in an effort to stop this information from leaking.

Clearly the sellers and the platforms have serious product liability exposure they seek

to avert. The number of bad products sold into the market place seems to be significant this year since at least March.

How many of these products are still in inventory is anyone's guess because the company's are not sharing details even when pressed hard.

I bring this to your attention for no wrongful purpose and out of a belief that as a health and safety CSO we have a greater than normal responsibility to warn officials of these findings.

Kindest Regards:

Micheal John O'Brien

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Appendix For Future Reference

TECHNICAL ANNEX: EMPIRICAL TEST DATA & EVIDENCE LOG

Submitted by: The RINJ Foundation (Health & Safety CSO)
Target Investigation: Uncertified Cross-Border LiFePO4 Battery Systems (314Ah / 280Ah Class)
E-Commerce Platforms Involved: Lazada Philippines / Shopee Philippines

Exhibit A: Cell Isolation & Top-Charging Imbalance (The "Cell-Runner" Defect)

• Observed Brands: Humsienk, Pony Energy, Gentai, Watt Cycle (Production Window: Late 2025)
• Testing Parameters: Regulated bench charging via current-limiting DC power supply at a modest 0.05C to 0.1C rate.
• The Failure Mechanism:
Instead of a linear, uniform voltage ascent across the internal 4S configuration, target units suffer a catastrophic BMS high-voltage cutoff lockdown between 13.6V and 13.9V.
• Engineering Diagnostic:
This behavior verifies the deployment of mismatched, un-vetted, or factory-rejected B/C-grade cell tissue. Individual "cell-runners" spike past 3.65V prematurely due to severe internal resistance variations, forcing a complete safety shutdown while the remaining cell blocks sit completely uncharged.

Exhibit B: Parallel System Voltage Collapse & Internal Short-Circuiting

• Target Unit Case Study: Gentai 12V 314Ah Pack (Lazada Order ID: 1129917140890962)
• Testing Setup: Matched parallel system configuration tied via a 63A DC circuit breaker utilizing 1.2-meter 25mm² pure copper conductors.
• The Catastrophic Failure Event:
While resting stably at a system busbar voltage of 13.613V, the target unit suffered an instantaneous internal cell membrane or structure collapse. The battery dropped its terminal voltage independently and shifted from a normal charging state into a massive, uncontrolled power sink, drawing between 50A and 70A of current directly from the parallel sister batteries and solar array.

• Public Safety Risk Analysis:
An internal micro-short drawing 50A–70A bypasses standard high-amperage array fuses (e.g., 125A MRBF) while generating extreme, rapid localized thermal dissipation. This forces the shorted cell into an unstoppable thermal runaway trajectory, creating an immediate fire and toxic gas venting hazard.

Exhibit C: Negligent Merchant Technical Advisory

• Documented Vendor Instructions:
Upon presentation of the volatile Bluetooth BMS cell logs, merchant technical support channels explicitly instructed the consumer to:
1. Force heavy electrical discharge loads onto a hard-locked, chemically unstable battery casing to "force-reset" the system.
2. Manually slice open factory structural casings to bypass engineered safety management cutoffs.
• Regulatory Infraction:
Instructing untrained end-users or homeowners to manually override a tripped BMS on a structurally compromised or internally shorted lithium pack constitutes possible criminal negligence and a direct incitement to residential property destruction and personal injury.

Recommended Regulatory Interventions for BPS / DOE / FTEB

1. Immediate Port-of-Entry Quarantines: Enforce immediate compliance audits on all incoming cross-border sea and air cargo containing 12V LFP packs under the Humsienk, Gentai, Pony Energy, and Watt Cycle labels.
2. Platform Liability Directives: Issue a formal cease-and-desist to Lazada and Shopee corporate compliance, requiring the immediate algorithmic delisting of merchants distributing uncertified, non-PS/ICC compliant 314Ah and 280Ah battery packs.
3. Accelerated Implementation of the May 2026 Draft Order: Transition the Draft Administrative Order into immediate effect to institute mandatory laboratory cell-matching standards for all imported Lithium Iron Phosphate cells.

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