

## **UN To Set Safety Standards For Eco-Car Batteries**

Wednesday, August 25, 2010

GENEVA (Nikkei)--A United Nations body will by the end of the year create global safety standards for batteries installed in hybrid and electric vehicles, it has been learned.

All member countries of the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations have agreed to a request from Germany that such standards be established. The envisaged rules will likely include requirements for resistance to fire, heat and impact, as well as for longevity.

The forum, a working group of the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe, is tasked with revising international agreements on automotive parts and components and adding new rules to existing accords.

Although the use of lithium ion and other types of batteries in automobiles is projected to surge, no global safety standards for them have been created.

Germany is expected to submit to the forum a draft of its own standards after soliciting feedback from domestic auto-related firms.

Japan, the global leader in fuel-efficient vehicles, still has no unified standards for batteries used in such cars.

In March, the forum agreed to make global standards of eco-car safety rules proposed by Japan, though batteries were not covered.