

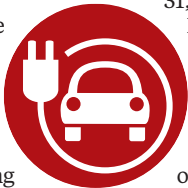
EV BATTERY MAKERS GET MORE TIME TO COMPLY WITH NORMS

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After much resistance from the electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing industry, the Centre has extended the deadline for implementation of the new battery testing standards, which were enforced amid rising cases of EV fires across the country.

The standards, which were earlier supposed to be implemented by



October 1, will now be rolled out in two phases — December 1, 2022, and March 31, 2023. Union Minister for Road Transport Nitin Gadkari had reportedly met EV makers last week to discuss the issue.

The much-awaited new regulations were introduced on August 29 after an expert committee constituted by the ministry of road transport and highways found severe defects in manufac-

turing practices by EV makers to be the cause of the fires, which, in some cases, had led to injuries and deaths. Manufacturers, while supporting the need for reform, had called the implementation deadline unrealistic.

Sohinder Gill, director-general of the Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles (SMEV), and chief executive officer of Hero Electric, thanked the government for accepting the SMEV's request to implement the new battery standards in a phased manner.