

The Forth Coming: Batteries Directive (2006/66/EC)

The EC Directive on Batteries and Accumulators, including Waste Batteries and Accumulators aims to minimise the impact of batteries on the environment and encourage the recovery for the materials they contain.

The UK regulations for labeling and battery composition are due to enter into force on 26th September 2008 with requirements for collection and recycling to follow early in 2009.

The scope of the Directive covers businesses that import or manufacture batteries or electrical equipment containing batteries or with batteries included in the packaging.

Producers are responsible for financing the collection and treatment of batteries at the end of life. It is expected that this could be achieved through compliance schemes – Acco UK will be working with Valpak as their compliance partner & are actively participating in the final details of the Directive as a member of the Valpak Pre-compliance Scheme .

Sellers of batteries or equipment containing batteries to public or business consumers, are obliged to offer take-back services for waste batteries when supplying new.

The Directive's main requirements are:

- Achieving minimum collection targets for portable batteries of 25% by 2012 and 45% by 2016
- Ban on portable batteries that contain more than 0.002% cadmium or 0.005% mercury by weight – exemptions apply for emergency lighting, medical equipment and portable power tools (to be reviewed in 2010)
- Prohibition on the disposal of all industrial and automotive batteries in landfill sites or by incineration
- That retailers should offer to take back old portable batteries and accumulators at no extra charge when supplying new

Labeling of batteries including their capacity

This is a European Directive & as with the WEEE Directive is expected to be managed differently in all countries with each country being responsible for compliance locally.

FAQ's

Which batteries are included?

All batteries are included, both those that are built-in and those sold separately. This applies regardless of whether or not the battery has been classed as environmentally hazardous.

What differentiates the new Battery Directive from the battery regulations (1997:645) that currently apply?

The main difference is that the new regulations cover batteries that are environmentally hazardous as well as those that are not. Producer responsibility also means that those releasing batteries, in some form, on the market are responsible for them throughout their entire lifecycle. For example, this means that there must be an appropriate collection system in addition to financial guarantees.

For more information please contact Data Standards