

An Overview of the UK Battery Regulations

Introduction

The UK Battery Regulations were introduced with the aim of reducing the amount of used batteries going to landfill and to limit the quantities of heavy metals that are contained in batteries.

There are two sets of regulations in place:

- The Waste Batteries and Accumulators Regulations 2009 (as amended)
- The Batteries and Accumulators (Placing on the Market) Regulations 2008 (as amended)

Who is affected?

These regulations affect any organisation that:

- Imports, manufactures or distributes batteries or accumulators, or
- Imports or manufactures electrical equipment containing batteries

What do you need to do?

Waste Batteries & Accumulators Regulations 2009

Manufacturers & Importers

Organisations that manufacture or import batteries or electrical equipment containing batteries are known as producers. There are two types of producer:

- Large producer – place more than 1 tonne of batteries onto the UK market each year
- Small producer – place 1 tonne or less of batteries onto the UK market each year

Large producers must:

- Register with a battery compliance scheme, such as Valpak
- Make quarterly data submissions declaring the amount of batteries they have placed onto the UK market
- Finance the cost of collection, treatment and recycling of batteries at their end of life (this is done through a battery compliance scheme)

Small producers must:

- Register directly with the relevant Agency or using the services of a compliance scheme, such as Valpak
- Make an annual data submission declaring the amount of batteries they have placed onto the UK market

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Producers – Automotive or Industrial Batteries

Producers of automotive and industrial batteries must register with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and provide data on an annual basis. They also have takeback and/or collection and record keeping obligations.

Distributors

Organisations that sell (or supply free of charge) more than 32kg of portable batteries per year (on a store by store basis) must take back waste portable batteries free of charge. This is regardless of the method of sale i.e. in store or over the internet. They are also required to provide information to end users at point of sale about the take back arrangements they have put in place. Information on this can be found at www.recycle-more.co.uk.

The Batteries and Accumulators (Placing on the Market) Regulations 2008

Organisations that design, manufacture, supply or make available batteries or accumulators must:

- Ensure the batteries adhere to the permitted levels of cadmium, mercury and lead
- Mark the batteries with the crossed out wheeled bin symbol and applicable chemical symbols
- Put a capacity label on rechargeable portable batteries and automotive batteries
- Ensure batteries incorporated in appliances can be readily removed

Useful Links

[The Waste Batteries and Accumulators Regulations 2009](#)

[The Waste Batteries and Accumulators \(Amendment\) Regulations 2015](#)

[The Batteries and Accumulators \(Placing on the Market\) Regulations 2008](#)

[The Batteries and Accumulators \(Placing on the Market\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2012](#)

[The Batteries and Accumulators \(Placing on the Market\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2015](#)

[Directive 2006/66/EC on batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators](#)

(The link to the Directive directs you to the page on Eur Lex, however to ensure that you fulfil all requirements please ensure you also take account of the “Relationship between documents” section and in particular the “Amended by” sub-section which can be found by ensuring you are using the “Document information” tab (at the top of the page) and scrolling down.)

Contact Us

We offer a range of services to help organisations with batteries compliance. For more information please call 03450 682 572 or email info@valpak.co.uk.

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