



The Battery Company Limited.
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EU Directive 2006/66/EC and UK Regulations on batteries and accumulators and waste batteries

The broad aim of the Directive is to ensure correct labelling of the various technologies, and set and enforce targets for the collection and recycling of waste batteries of all types, thus providing ongoing improvements towards environmental protection and help prevent heavy metal pollution.

Member states have been required to produce legislation to meet the requirements of the Directive. There are currently two pieces of legislation in force in order to transpose this Directive in the UK:

A)

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

The above regulations came into force on 26th September 2008. These mainly address the situation regarding material prohibitions and labelling. Summarised below are our responses to the areas of this legislation relevant to Power-sonic Europe Ltd.

Material Prohibitions

The only material within any of the technologies we place on the market that is potentially prohibited is that of cadmium, in our Nickel Cadmium batteries. There is potentially a prohibition for these batteries, which contain more than 0.002% of cadmium. However, the prohibition does not currently apply to portable batteries intended for use in the following categories, which is the intended use for our batteries:

- (a) Emergency and alarm systems, including emergency lighting
- (b) Medical equipment
- (c) Cordless power tools

The exemption for (C) is to be reviewed in September 2010 (Directive (4:4))

Labelling to aid recycling

All our products are labelled according to current legislative requirements. These are the requirements to apply the crossed out wheeled bin symbol along with the appropriate chemical symbol for the item. These symbols are of the requisite size and are visible, legible and indelible. The relevant symbols for our batteries are:

- Pb – VRLA (SLA) batteries
- Cd – Nickel Cadmium batteries
- NI – Nickel Cadmium batteries

There is no symbol as yet for alkaline batteries

In addition to the above symbols, there was a requirement by 26th September 2009 to show battery capacities.



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B)

The Waste batteries and Accumulators Regulations 2009

The 2008 regulations were supplemented in May 2009 by the above regulations. These specifically address the issue of collection, treatment and recycling of waste batteries. Power-Sonic Europe, as a producer of portable and industrial batteries, are obliged to take back waste batteries as well as keeping records of batteries placed on the market and subsequent waste collected.

We have not needed to make many changes to our collection procedures, as we have been collecting waste from our customers on a voluntary basis for many years. This has largely been achieved by the provision of waste bins at customer's sites for waste batteries for our main product, Valve Regulated Lead Acid (VRLA) batteries (also known as Sealed Lead Acid (SLA) batteries). Currently there is no charge for the installation of waste bins at customer's sites or for collection. In detail, we aim to place bins at premises where they will be filled for collection at least 2 times per annum (The bins take approximately 1000kgs weight).

For more modest volumes we have accepted, and continue to accept, returns of these batteries at or near the end of their life, for subsequent scrapping and processing through the proper recycling channels. The legislation does not allow producers to charge to take back batteries, although it does not prevent the parties concerned from making arrangements between themselves to finance the net costs of collection. Power-Sonic have never charged customers to take back waste batteries, we have only requested that the customer bear the cost of transportation to our premises.

As a producer of portable, as well as industrial batteries, we are obliged under the regulations to join a Battery Compliance Scheme (BCS). We have registered with the BSC operator; Valpak. Our Batteries Producer Registration Number (BPRN) with the Environment Agency is BPRN00736: Our membership number with Valpak is RM06306. The arrangement of collection of all technologies, other than VRLA may be undertaken on our behalf by Valpak (www.valpak.co.uk); upon direct request to them (regs, points 58 & 131). Alternatively, collections may be arranged through any other approved BCS operator. BCS operators cannot charge for such collections. Upon request, a BCS operator is required to make arrangements for a collection within 21 days of notification. This does not mean that the collection must be made within that time; collection should only take place when there is a reasonable amount of waste batteries available from the distributor (Regs, points 127-129).

EU Directive EC/2006/EC, and government guideline notes on the 2008 and 2009 Regulations are available upon request and on our download section at our web-site.