
The Battery Directive

The Battery Directive (Directive 2006\66\EC) repeals Directive 91/157/EEC from 26th September 2008 and further aims to reduce the effect on the environment of the elements Mercury and Cadmium.

This is achieved by prohibiting the sale of all batteries or accumulators that contain more than 0.0005% mercury by weight and portable batteries and accumulators that contain more than 0.002% cadmium by weight. There are some usage categories that will be exempt from the regulations, including emergency lighting, medical equipment and power tools.

It also requires that Member States set up appropriate collection and recycling schemes to be in place by no later than 26 September 2009. The recycling schemes are to be the responsibility of producers or third parties. The schemes should meet the efficiency targets as set out by the Directive.