



Ware 4 Bins & Recycling

Bins, Trolleys, Recycling and Waste Containers

The EU Batteries Directive

The EU Batteries Directive

On the 26th of September 2008 the UK will enforce the first phase of the EU Batteries Directive; the Batteries and Accumulators (Placing on the Market) Regulations. This first stage will only affect battery producers. However, the second phase of the Directive will regulate the recycling and disposal of all batteries by all businesses and it is anticipated that regulations will come into force later this year.

Why recycle batteries?

- Batteries contain **hazardous waste** substances such as mercury, lead and cadmium, which when disposed of in a landfill site, may leach into the surrounding environment. In 2004 the EU Landfill Directive placed a ban on the disposal of such hazardous waste in landfill sites without prior treatment. All hazardous waste, including batteries, must not be mixed with other waste streams. They must be separated, stored safely and collected for treatment before being disposed.
- Aside from compliance with the new legislation, recycling batteries will also contribute to the **EU Landfill Directive targets**, which are set to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. As with the recycling of other materials, the UK falls far behind the rest of Europe in the recycling of batteries. In 2002 Belgium was recycling 59% of all batteries sold and Sweden was recycling batteries at a rate of 55%. The UK recycling collection rates were just 0.5% during this period (Lets Recycle, 2008).
- The new targets under the Batteries Directive mean that the UK will have to dramatically increase recycling rates of batteries to 25% within the first 4 years, rising to 45% after 8 years (BERR, 2008). It will become a legal requirement for all businesses to recycle spent batteries.

The EU Batteries Directive will affect any UK business that produces, supplies or disposes of batteries. It is anticipated that the new legislation will include:

- Introduction of new battery recycling schemes.
- A ban on the landfill or incineration of certain types of batteries.
- Limits on the use of mercury and cadmium in batteries.
- Labelling requirements to increase consumer recycling.
- Improved design requirements so that batteries can be easily removed from products.
- Phased collection targets for portable batteries.
- A register that all battery producers must be listed on.



Contact Ware 4 Bins & Recycling

If you are interested in finding out more about the services and products Ware 4 provides please do not hesitate to contact us on **0113 250 8688**

Email: info@ware4.co.uk



Please consider the environment before printing this document.