



WHAT HAPPENS TO THE USED BATTERIES ONCE I'VE COLLECTED THEM?

Battery Compliance Schemes (BCS) will collect the used batteries from your premises free of charge. You cannot charge the BCS for the collected batteries. To arrange collection, you can contact any of the approved BCSs and discuss arrangements with them. The scheme must contact you within 21 days to agree a collection date. Contact details for the approved Battery Compliance Schemes are available through the VCA website at - www.vca.gov.uk

You also have the option of using your own delivery vehicles to transport collected used batteries to appointed consolidation points ('backhauling'). Requirements associated with this can be found in the Government Advisory Note. A link to this document is available through the VCA website at - www.vca.gov.uk

WHAT IF I SUPPLY LESS THAN 32KG A YEAR BUT WANT TO COLLECT BATTERIES?

You can still collect used batteries if you wish to. However, if you sell less than 32kg of batteries per year, you are not entitled to free collection by a BCS, although they must accept used batteries from you. We recommend that before collecting waste batteries, you talk to a BCS about how you can dispose of them for recycling.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM A DISTANCE SELLER?

If you supply over 32kg a year of portable batteries over the internet, via mail order or telesales, you are a distance seller and must also provide a take-back facility and inform your customers of the facility.

There are a number of possibilities available to you to meet your legal obligations. You can provide publicly accessible facilities at the premises from which you dispatch or take the order of batteries, e.g., your warehouse or office. You could also direct your customers to your shops if these provide take-back or provide business customers with a bin to deposit waste batteries and collect them from their premises when making a delivery. The FAQ document for distributors has further details and is available from the VCA website. For any method you choose, you will need to fully understand the roles and responsibilities on those that store and transport waste portable batteries and should read the Advisory Note on these issues, also available on the VCA website.

ENFORCEMENT BODY

Defra appointed VCA to enforce the requirements on distributors with effect from 1 February 2010.

WEEE REGULATIONS

Please also be aware that if you supply new battery operated products to the public, you may also be classed as a distributor under the WEEE Regulations. The distributor take back element of the WEEE Regulations are also enforced by the VCA. If you would like to know more about your obligations in this area, please refer to the VCA website or use the help line number on the back of this leaflet.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The following list is not meant to be exhaustive but provides some good initial contact points:

VCA, for general advice and information:

Internet - www.vca.gov.uk
Help Line - **0844 8000 819**
Email - batteries@vca.gov.uk

DEFRA, for information on the original legislation:

Internet - www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/producer/batteries

Environment Agency:

Internet - www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/regulation/101529.aspx

Scottish Environment Protection Agency:

Internet - www.sepa.org.uk

Northern Ireland Environment Agency:

Internet - www.ni-environment.gov.uk

Department for Business Innovation and Skills:

Internet - www.bis.gov.uk



REGULATIONS ON RECYCLING PORTABLE BATTERIES

INFORMATION FOR DISTRIBUTORS



WILL THE REGULATIONS AFFECT ME?

If you supply portable batteries to end users (the public or businesses), in your store, over the internet, via mail order or telesales then you are a distributor of portable batteries.

New regulations on the recycling of batteries and accumulators (rechargeable batteries) were introduced in 2009. The Batteries Regulations aim to significantly increase UK collection and recycling of used portable batteries from the current rate of about 3% to 25% by 2012, rising to at least 45% in 2016.

This leaflet explains what you will need to do.

WHAT IS A PORTABLE BATTERY?

Portable batteries include AA/AAA cells, button cells, mobile phone batteries and laptop batteries.

Products that use portable batteries include:

- Hearing aids
- Watches
- Portable cameras
- Cordless power tools
- Toys
- Electric tooth brushes
- Electric razors
- Hand-held vacuum cleaners

If a battery is available for purchase by the general public or businesses, then it is likely to be a portable battery unless it is too big to be hand-carried or is clearly an automotive or industrial battery. For more information on the difference between portable, industrial and automotive batteries go to the VCA website –

www.vca.gov.uk

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I PLACE BATTERIES ONTO THE UK MARKET?

If you place portable, industrial or automotive batteries, or products that contain them, onto the UK market for the first time (i.e., you have not bought them from another UK supplier), you may be a 'producer', and will also have obligations. Further information on obligations for producers of portable batteries is available from the Environment Agency, and for producers of automotive and industrial batteries, from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. Useful links are given at the end of this leaflet.

You could be a producer and a distributor.

I AM A DISTRIBUTOR – WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

From 1 February 2010, if you are a distributor who supplies over 32kg of portable batteries per year in an individual store, over the internet, via mail order or telesales, you will need to take back used batteries from the public free of charge.

You must:

- Provide the take-back facility free of charge to the public (that is, not require them to purchase goods from you in order to return used portable batteries)
- Provide information at your sales points about your take-back facility
- Accept all types of portable batteries – not just the ones you sell

You do not have to take back used portable batteries if:

- The batteries you supply are only in equipment containing batteries and you do not also supply batteries separately
- You supply less than 32kg of portable batteries a year

HOW MANY BATTERIES IS 32KG A YEAR?

The table below gives the weights of some of the most common portable batteries. Defra has developed an online calculator which will help you work out if you supply more than 32kg. A link to this tool can be found on the VCA website – www.vca.gov.uk

Type	Weight per battery (grams)	Weight of pack of 4 (grams)	How many packs of 4=32kg
AA	23	92	348
AAA	12	48	666
C	66	264	120
D	148	592	54

WHO WILL PROVIDE CONTAINERS AND PUBLICITY MATERIALS?

You will be responsible for organising this. However, Battery Compliance Schemes may be able to provide you with containers and publicity material. Defra has also developed some publicity material that distributors are able to use and a link to the appropriate web page can be found on the VCA website - www.vca.gov.uk

ARE USED BATTERIES DANGEROUS TO KEEP ON THE SHOP FLOOR?

There are no specific health and safety requirements for storing waste batteries, but normal health and safety considerations apply. However, a container full of mixed batteries is likely to contain a small proportion that are classified as dangerous and/or hazardous and will, therefore, need to be transported in accordance with relevant legislation.

Further advice is given in the Government Advisory Note. A link to this document is available through the VCA website at - www.vca.gov.uk