

**REGULATIONS HARMONISED AT EUROPEAN LEVEL**

**BATTERIES AND ACCUMULATORS**

**SCOPE**

Batteries and accumulators are electrochemical generators used as main or secondary energy sources in numerous appliances, machines or vehicles.

Battery or accumulator means any source of electrical energy generated by direct conversion of chemical energy and consisting of one or several primary (non rechargeable) battery cells, or consisting of one or several secondary (rechargeable) battery cells.

Portable battery or accumulator means any battery, button cell, battery pack or accumulator that is sealed, that can be hand-carried, and that is neither an industrial battery or accumulator, nor an automotive battery or accumulator.

Button cell means any small, round portable battery or accumulator whose diameter is greater than its height.

The regulation applies to all types of batteries and accumulators, regardless of their shape, volume, weight, material composition or use.

The following are excluded from the scope of the regulation:

- Batteries and accumulators used in equipment connected with the protection of the State's essential security interests, weapons, munitions and war material, with the exclusion of products that are not intended for specifically military purposes
- Batteries and accumulators designed to be sent into space

The new European regulation transposed into French law in Articles [R.543-124 to R.543-132](#) of the Environmental Code has numerous changes. The main ones are listed below:

- Extension of the principle of responsibility to include manufacturers of any type of battery or accumulator that they put on the European and French markets
- Breakdown of batteries and accumulators into three categories: 'portable, automotive or industrial'
- Tighter restrictions on using certain hazardous substances (mercury and cadmium) in batteries and accumulators put on the EU market, whether or not they are installed in appliances
- Marking requirements of the batteries and accumulators put on the EU market (symbol of a crossed-out dustbin on wheels, chemical symbol of the hazardous substances inside, capacity for portable and automotive batteries and accumulators)
- Extension of the selective waste collection principle to include all used batteries and accumulators, whether or not they contain hazardous substances, and introduction of a minimum waste collection rate for portable batteries and accumulators
- Introduction of minimum recycling yields (ranging from 50 to 75%, depending on the case, for each recycling process)
- National registration of battery and accumulator manufacturers

Portable battery and accumulator manufacturers are responsible for the waste removal of the portable batteries and accumulators that are collected separately by the regional and local authorities, retailers or any other holders on the national territory. They may meet their removal and treatment requirements through individual systems approved by the public authorities, or collective arrangements approved by the said authorities.

To date, the public authorities have granted approval to two eco-organisations - COREPILE and SCRELEC until the end of 2015 - and to the individual Mobivia Groupe system until the end of 2014.

Notably, portable or automotive battery and accumulator retailers must take back the waste of batteries and accumulators of the same type they sell, free of charge and with no obligation to buy.

## REGULATIONS

### ➤ EU LEGISLATION

- [Directive 2006/66/EC](#) of 6 September 2006 on batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators and repealing Directive 91/157/EEC
- [Directive 2008/103/EC](#) of 19 November 2008 amending Directive 2006/66/EC on batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators as regards placing batteries and accumulators on the market
- [Regulation \(EU\) No 1103/2010](#) of 29 November 2010 establishing rules as regards capacity labelling of portable secondary (rechargeable) and automotive batteries and accumulators

### ➤ FRENCH LEGISLATION

- [Section 7 – Chapter III - Title IV of Book V](#) of the regulatory part of the Environmental Code
- [Order of 9 November 2009](#) on transit, grouping, selective waste collection and processing of used batteries and accumulators pursuant to Article R.543-131 of Chapter III of Title IV of Book V of the regulatory part of the Environmental Code
- [Order of 18 November 2009](#) on registering and declaring batteries and accumulators on the national register pursuant to Article R.543-132 of the Environmental Code
- [Order of 18 November 2009](#) setting the scenarios and conditions in which the obligations in terms of amounts of cadmium in portable batteries and accumulators do not apply, under Article R.543-126 of Chapter III of Title IV of Book V of the regulatory part of the Environmental Code
- [Order of 7 January 2011](#) approving a specific system for removing and processing used portable batteries and accumulators under Article R.543-128-3 of the Environmental Code

## **CONTACTS**

### ➤ **AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE FOR REGULATIONS**

- *Ministère de l'écologie, du développement durable et de l'énergie* (Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy) :

- DGPR – Bureau de la qualité écologique des produits  
[dgpr.bqep@developpement-durable.gouv.fr](mailto:dgpr.bqep@developpement-durable.gouv.fr)

### ➤ **MARKET SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITIES**

- *Ministère de l'économie et des finances* (Ministry for the Economy and Finance) :

- DGCCRF – Bureau des produits industriels 5A – [bureau-5a@dgccrf.finances.gouv.fr](mailto:bureau-5a@dgccrf.finances.gouv.fr)
- DGDDI (Customs) – Bureau D2 – [dg-d2@douane.finances.gouv.fr](mailto:dg-d2@douane.finances.gouv.fr)

### ➤ **ACCREDITED ECO-BODIES (for portable batteries and accumulators)**

- COREPILE by [Order of 22 December 2009](#) – [www.corepile.fr](http://www.corepile.fr)
- SCRELEC by [Order of 22 December 2009](#) – [www.screlec.fr](http://www.screlec.fr)

### ➤ **BUSINESS FEDERATIONS**

- Syndicat français des fabricants de piles et accumulateurs portables (SPAP)  
17 rue Hamelin – 75783 PARIS Cedex 16  
Tel: +33 1 45 05 70 95
- Syndicat français des recycleurs de piles et accumulateurs (SFRAP)  
Contact : M. Beaurepaire – Tel: +33 1 41 34 23 45 – [ebeaurepaire@le-public-systeme.fr](mailto:ebeaurepaire@le-public-systeme.fr)
- Fédération des entreprises du recyclage (FEDEREC)  
101 rue de Prony – 75017 PARIS – Tel: +33 1 40 54 01 94 – [www.federec.com](http://www.federec.com)
- Fédération des minerais, minéraux industriels et métaux non ferreux (FEDEM)  
17 rue Hamelin – 75783 PARIS Cedex 16 – Tel: +33 1 40 76 44 50 – [www.fedem.fr](http://www.fedem.fr)

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

A [summary of regulations and figures](#) is available on the website of the Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy.

There is a [presentation](#) of waste management for batteries and accumulators in France on the website of the *Agence de l'Environnement et de la Maîtrise de l'Energie* (French Environment and Energy Management Agency, ADEME).