

WEEE and RoHS Regulations EU Battery Directive

Since 1991, the marketing of batteries is regulated by the EU "Battery Directive" 91/157/EEC on batteries and accumulators containing certain dangerous substances (as amended by directives 93/86/EEC and 98/101/EC). On 27.01.2003, two new EU Directives were published in the Official Journal:

On 4.7.2012 the successor were published in Official Journal:

1. WEEE Directive 2012/19/EU on waste electrical and electronic equipment
2. RoHS Directive 2011/65/EU on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment

Furthermore on 31 March 2015:

Directive 2015/863 amending annex II to Directive 2011/65/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the list of restricted substances

What is the impact of the EU directives WEEE and RoHS on our lead acid batteries?

In the explanatory memorandums and in the articles that describe the scope of WEEE and RoHS it is clearly stated that both directives apply without prejudice to other Community's Directives on Waste, Safety and Health Requirements, in particular the Council Directive 91/157/EEC on batteries and accumulators containing certain dangerous substances ("Battery Directive"). Info_batt directive_WEEE_ROHS_Oct2020032/2

The market restriction, as provided for in the RoHS Directive, on new equipment containing e.g. mercury, lead and cadmium does not apply to batteries used with or incorporated in electrical and electronic equipment. The only source for marketing restrictions on Batteries is and will be the "Battery Directive". The WEEE Directive applies to spent batteries collected together with WEEE and requires their removal and separate collection. Once removed from WEEE, spent batteries are governed by the "Battery Directive".

The Battery Directive 2006/66/EC specifically mentions in its Article 6: "Member States shall not, on the grounds dealt with in this Directive, impede, prohibit, or restrict the placing on the market in their territory of batteries and accumulators that meet the requirements of this Directive." Therefore, batteries containing lead or cadmium, as well as button cells with a mercury content of no more than 2% by weight can be used in electrical and electronic equipment after 1.7.2006. This applies to individual cells, battery packs or batteries attached to the equipment (i.e. soldered to parts of the equipment)

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