

## Government Decision

concerning batteries and accumulators containing certain hazardous substances

Issued in Helsinki, 26 January 1995

The government has after a submission by the Ministry of the Environment, the provisions of Section 5 of the Refuse Act of 3 December 1993 (1072/93) and of Sections 43, para. 1, and 44 of the Chemicals Act of 14 August 1989 (744/89), as worded in the Act of 18 December 1992 (1412/92), decides:

### 1 §

#### Definitions

In this decision battery refers to a source of electrical energy which is generated by the direct conversion of chemical energy and which consists of one or more primary batteries (not rechargeable) and accumulator refers to a corresponding source of electrical energy which consists of one or more secondary cells (rechargeable).

### 2 §

#### Area of application

This decision applies to batteries and accumulators which contain more than:

- 1) 25 mg mercury per cell, with the exception of alkaline zinc chloride batteries,
- 2) 0.025 per cent by weight of cadmium, or
- 3) 0.4 per cent by weight of lead.

The decision also applies to alkaline zinc chloride batteries which contain more than 0.025 per cent by weight of mercury.

### § 3

#### Release of alkaline zinc chloride batteries on the market

Alkaline zinc chloride batteries which contain more than 0.025 per cent by weight of mercury must not be put on the market.

The prohibition in para. 1 does not apply to alkaline button cells of zinc chloride type and batteries which consist of button cells. Nor does the prohibition apply to alkaline zinc chloride batteries intended for long-term use in temperatures of below 0°C or above 50°C, which are exposed to impact or which are used in other extreme conditions and which contain no more than 0.05 per cent by weight of mercury.

### § 4

#### Marking of batteries and accumulators

Batteries and accumulators may be put on the market only if they are marked as specified in appendix 1 to this decision.



§ 5

Batteries and accumulators built into appliances

Appliances with built-in batteries or accumulators may be imported and manufactured only if the user can easily remove the used batteries or accumulators from the appliances.

The restriction laid down in para. 1 does not apply to the appliances referred to in appendix 2 to this decision.

§ 6

Duty to provide information

In conjunction with the selling of batteries and accumulators and of appliances which contain batteries and accumulators, clear information must be given concerning the risks associated with uncontrolled handling of used batteries and accumulators and concerning the marking of batteries and accumulators and what it implies.

The appliances referred to in § 5, para. 2, shall be accompanied by instructions informing the user of environmentally hazardous batteries and accumulators which are built into the appliances and of how they can be safely removed from the appliances.

§ 7

Supervision

Supervision of compliance with this decision will be exercised by those supervisory authorities named in the Refuse Act (1072/93) and the Chemicals Act (744/89) each in their respective areas.

§ 8

Operative date

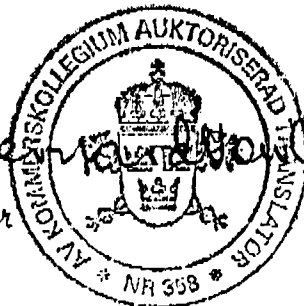
This decision becomes operative on 1 March 1995.

Batteries and accumulators which have been manufactured in or imported into the European Community before the operative date of this decision may be put on the market until 31 December 1995 without the marking referred to in 4 §.

Helsinki, 26 January 1995

Minister for the Environment

*This and the preceding page stamped to certify a correct translation of the corresponding Swedish document ("Statsrådets beslut om batterier och ackumulatorer - 26 januari 1995") presented to me:*



Chief Inspector

Bernard Vowles

Public Translator authorized by the Swedish Board of Trade

**Marking referred to in § 4 which indicates separate collection of batteries and accumulators**

1. The symbol which indicates that batteries and accumulators are to be collected separately is a crossed-out dustbin on wheels. The symbol must take the form of one of the figures below:

2. The marking shall in addition to the symbol referred to in para. 1 contain the chemical symbol for the heavy metal which the batteries or accumulators contain, either Hg, Cd or Pb.

3. The symbol which is referred to in para. 1 shall cover 3 % of the area of the largest side of the battery or the accumulator and be not greater in size than 5 cm x 5 cm. On cylindrical batteries or accumulators the symbol shall cover 3 % of half of the area of the battery or the accumulator and be not greater in size than 5 cm x 5 cm.

4. If the size of the battery or the accumulator is such that the symbol as prescribed in para. 3 would be smaller than 0.5 cm x 0.5 cm, the battery or the accumulator need not be marked. In this case a symbol 1 cm x 1 cm in size must be printed on the packaging.

5. The chemical symbol referred to in para. 2 shall be printed below the symbol referred to in para. 1. The size of the chemical symbol shall be at least one quarter of the area of the symbol referred to in para. 1.

6. The symbols shall be printed clearly, legibly and indelibly.

*Certified a correct  
translation of the  
Swedish document  
presented to me:*

*Bernard Vowles*

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Appliances into which batteries and accumulators may be built under 5 \$,  
paragraph 2.

1. Appliances in which batteries or accumulators are permanently soldered, permanently welded or otherwise permanently attached in order to ensure a continuous supply of current for heavy-duty industrial use and to preserve memory and data functions in data-processing and office equipment, if it is necessary for technical reasons to use such batteries and accumulators as are referred to in this decision.

2. Reference cells in equipment for scientific or professional use and also batteries and accumulators in medical devices intended to maintain vital functions and in pacemakers, in which uninterrupted functioning is necessary and also the batteries and the accumulators can be removed only by qualified personnel.

3. Portable appliances, if a change of battery carried out by unqualified personnel may entail a safety hazard to the user or affect the functioning of the appliance, and equipment for professional use in very sensitive environments, e.g. in the vicinity of volatile substances.

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