

Regulations

relating to the marketing and disposal of accumulators

From its date of publication on 16 May 1999, the Decree N° 99-374 of 12th May 1999, modified by the Decret N° 99-1171 of 29th decembre 1999, stipulates that :

1 - it is prohibited to sell batteries and accumulators containing + than 5 ppm their weight in mercury (except for button batteries) as well as appliances in which these batteries or accumulators are incorporated.

2 - for all accumulators and all batteries it is obligatory to identify the name or brand name of the responsible person for disposal (manufacturer, importer, incorporator or distributor if it is its own brand)

3 - marking is obligatory (a crossed out dustbin and the chemical constituent - Hg for mercury, Cd for cadmium, Pb for lead) for:

- batteries containing + than 25 mg of mercury or + than 0.025 % their weight in mercury in the case of manganese alkaline batteries
- batteries and accumulators containing + than 0.025 % their weight in cadmium or + than 0.4 % their weight in lead

4 - it is obligatory to collect and recover:

- all used accumulators (nickel-cadmium, nickel metal hydride, rechargeable lithium, lead)
- batteries containing mercury: either + 5 ppm if they are marketed as from 1st January 1999 or + than 25 mg or more than 0.025 % their weight for alkaline batteries. This represents today less than 2 % in weight of consumer batteries marketed.

From 1st January 2001:

It will be obligatory to collect and recover all other batteries that are not rechargeable (saline, alkaline...), i.e. 98 % of consumer batteries.