

The New Draft Battery Directive

Position Paper



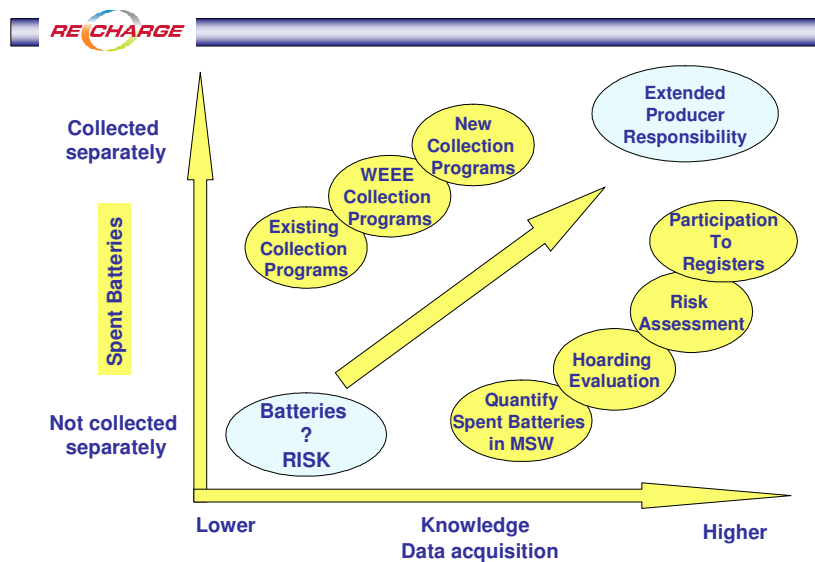
- **RECHARGE** was founded **to promote the value of rechargeable batteries** and represent the interests of all its members in the chain of battery life.
- RECHARGE Members agree that **all spent batteries should be collected** when reaching their end of life.
- RECHARGE **supports the development of collection programmes** for spent batteries in all Member States of the European Union. RECHARGE Members are also active in collection programmes for rechargeable batteries in the USA and Japan.
- RECHARGE subscribes to the implementation of the **Extended Producer Responsibility** principle as a basis for the proposed new Directive on batteries and accumulators.
- RECHARGE Members agree that the financing of collection and recycling of spent batteries **should be organised by industry** according to the principle of shared responsibility between all the economic actors of the value chain of portable rechargeable batteries.
- The follow-up and development of **the separate recovery of Portable Rechargeable Batteries** from WEEE and from collected spent Portable Batteries is a priority of RECHARGE.

For further information, please contact RECHARGE's secretariat, Mr. J-P Wiaux, General Manager at jpwiaux@rechargebatteries.org or phone 02 777 05 67.

Implementing the Extended Producer Responsibility principle

The following impacts are expected from the implementation of the future Battery Directive by taking the Extended Producer Responsibility as a basis for this new legislation.

- Extension of collection programmes for spent batteries in all Member States of the European Union.
- Collection of an increasing quantity of spent portable batteries through WEEE implementation and of industrial batteries.
- Participation to registers will deliver reliable information on sales quantities and quantities of collected spent batteries.
- Additional valuable information will be acquired, such as data on the presence of batteries in Municipal Solid Waste Streams and the quantity of batteries accumulated in homes (hoarding effect).



Background

On 25 November 2003 the European Commission proposed a revised version of the 1991 Batteries Directive. The proposal establishes rules regarding the marketing of batteries and accumulators, as well as for the collection, treatment and recycling of spent batteries and accumulators. The proposal is awaiting the European Parliament for Second Reading.

RECHARGE has been founded by portable rechargeable battery manufacturers, importers and distributors, by OEMs incorporating these batteries in their equipment and by recycling companies processing these batteries at end of life.