

USED BATTERIES AND ACCUMULATORS

By-law on Control of Used Batteries and Accumulators in line with the EU Directives published on 31.08.2004 and entered into force on 01.01.2005. Some articles of the By-law such as marking and labelling have been amended on 03.03.2005.

This by-law regulates the labeling and marking of all battery and accumulator products, the reduction of harmful substances in their production, their collection, transportation and disposal apart from residential (household) and other wastes after their usage, the prohibitions, limitations and obligations about their import, transit passage, and export, the measures to be taken, the controls to be made, and the responsibilities to apply.

This regulation does not cover (apply to) the instruments which contain batteries permanently subject to the purpose of industrial use; batteries placed inside medical devices used in scientific and medical fields and having vital importance; pacemakers; batteries or accumulators within instruments which need to operate permanently and uninterruptedly and which have to be removed only by experts.

Batteries are classified in two groups by the By-law. Nickel-cadmium and mercury-oxide batteries are Group 2 Batteries, the other than batteries are Group 1 Batteries.

The quota application is obligatory for battery producers in order to ensure collection and disposal of spent batteries in an environmentally sound manner. A deposit system has been developed for collection of accumulators. According to these principles, battery and accumulator producers must collect spent batteries and accumulators at the quota ratio determined annually by the MoEF. Producers and importers of batteries and accumulators established associations for separate collection, transportation and recycling and disposal of spent batteries and accumulators.

Since there is no battery production in Turkey, all firms are importers. 450 firms applied to the MoEF for quota implementation in 2007. Imported amount in 2006: 11,500 tonnes.

Accumulators: %80 product, %20 import in Turkey. 287 firms applied to the MoEF for deposit implementation in 2007. Imported and produced amount in 2006: 65,000 tonnes.

Spent batteries and accumulators are monitored by national transportation form.

Especially, spent accumulators are controlled via mass balance tables which are prepared by licensed companies dealing with spent accumulators recycling.

Real and legal entities who want to operate recycling facilities should obtain a license from the MoEF. The licenses are valid for a period of 3 years.

During the licensing procedure, recycling companies must obtain two technical reports; the first one from an institution that is specialized on the compliance of recycling facility technologies and the second one from a relevant department of an university. Up to now, 13 recycling companies have obtained licenses. Capacities of licensed recycling companies are 37.200 tonnes/year.

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