

Sales Prohibition of Nickel-Cadmium Batteries in EU

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◆ Outline

Nickel-cadmium battery is widely used as portable rechargeable source of electrical energypower supply, especially for electric and electrical equipment such as cordless power tools, which need strong power. The new Directive of Batteries and Accumulators (2006/66/EC) prohibits the placing on the market of portable nickel-cadmium batteries with exemptions for applications such as Cordless Power Tools, Emergency Lighting and Medical Equipment.

According to Article 4 § 4., the exemption granted to cordless power tools will be reviewed in 2010. However,GOJ considers there is no economic alternative for cordless power tools to-using nickel-cadmium battery when power and cost are considered. In addition, European users that are currently using cordless tools powered by nickel-cadmium batteries, will have to take them back to collection centers according to the new Batteries Directive.

Battery manufacturers promote recycling in EU with the cooperation of the European Rechargeable Battery Association 'RECHARGE' (<http://www.rechargebatteries.org>) and by partibicipating to national collection programs established in all Member States of the European Union.

Therefore GOJ asks the Commission to consider the maintain of the exemption for the use of portable Ni-Cd batteries in an application such as Cordless Power Tools.

◆ Request

1. The exemption of prohibiting sales of nickel-cadmium battery in EU will be reviewed by September 26, 2010 by the European Commission.. Considering that —it is extremely difficult to implement alternative technologies for batteries used in cordless power tools because of capacity problem of the power supply performances, GOJ requests the European Commission to continue the exemption of to exempt from sales prohibition of nickel-cadmium batteries usedy for cordless power tools after 2010.

2. GOJ also requests the European Commission to allow battery manufacturers and Original Equipment Manufacturers to supply nickel-cadmium battery as replacement parts for power tools already on the market.

If replacement batteries are not allowed, it would force the discarding and replacement of several tenth millions units of cordless power tools that are still in use in Europe. This would be against the principles of sustainability and would create a large waste problem. It would also force end users to replace their equipment because of the non availability of spare parts.