

## **The EU Battery Directive 2006/66/EC**

Costs to the manufacturing industry - £13million ([Daily Express](#))

### **Talking points:**

Wide scope of the directive

The directive turns almost every manufacturer of modern electric equipment into a battery producer. Mass scale producers now face extra costs of treating and recycling batteries. This will hit car manufacturers and other modern manufacturing industries.

Bureaucratic

The directive instructs strict reporting and fines for non-compliance. The government have set up databases to monitor battery output and companies have to register to enable monitoring and compliance with recycling rates.

Higher prices

Giving manufacturers and producers the responsibility to treat and recycle batteries means costs will be incurred and likely passed on to the consumer. If we are to restart British manufacturing, especially modern manufacturing, we need to lower costs to export and sell.

Changes in product design

It has been reported that the iPod and iPhone may have to be [redesigned](#) to comply with the directive

What is it:

A directive to regulate the manufacturing, disposal and recycling of batteries and re-chargeable batteries (accumulators). The directive also aims to improve the environmental performance of batteries.

Key [requirements](#) of the directive are:

- A partial ban on portable nickel-cadmium batteries that excludes batteries used in medical equipment, emergency lighting and alarm systems, and cordless power tools. However, the exemption for power tools is subject to review after four years.
- Collection targets for spent portable batteries of 25% of average annual sales 4 years after the directive is implemented in the UK, rising to 45% after 8 years.
- Bans on the disposal of untreated automotive and industrial batteries in landfill or by incineration.

The [regulations](#) affect any business that uses, produced, supplies or disposes of batteries and any business that manufactures or designs battery powered products.

The directive places new responsibilities on producers, distributors and those that dispose of batteries. Those that produce/import more than one tonne of battery products need to join a 'battery compliance scheme'. Companies that join a battery compliance scheme need to pay for the collection, treatment and recycling of batteries. Companies will have to record data on the quantity of batteries traded to ensure government can monitor compliance targets set out in the directive.

Other producers under one tonne and industrial/waste treatment companies need to register with the National Packaging Waste Database to ensure compliance with the directive targets, detailing the amount of tonnes placed on the market.

Third Party Opinions

"The EU battery directive is making battery manufacturers out of carmakers" ([Recycling Magazine](#))

"Vince Armitage, divisional vice president at Varta Consumer Batteries UK, said the fine will be passed onto manufacturers and could ultimately push up the price of batteries." Vince Armitage, Varta Consumer Batteries UK reported in the [Daily Telegraph](#), 1 February 2010.