

# SAFEGUARDS

## CONSUMER GOODS AND RETAIL

ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONICS

NO. 194/13 OCTOBER 2013

## EU - NEW CADMIUM AND MERCURY BAN FOR BATTERIES

On 10 October 2013, the European Parliament approved measures to ban mercury in button cell batteries from autumn 2015 and phase out the current exemption of cadmium batteries and accumulators used in cordless power tools by 31 January 2016. The changes will be implemented by a new law amending the European Batteries Directive 2006/66/EC<sup>1</sup>.

In April 2013 we informed you about the intention of the European Parliament Environmental Committee to ban mercury and cadmium in certain battery types<sup>2</sup>. Meanwhile the European parliament voted positively to follow the proposal and ban mercury in button cells and cadmium in rechargeable batteries in power tools and other applications<sup>3</sup>.



The European Battery Directive currently in force allows the use of nickel-cadmium batteries in certain product categories like emergency and alarm systems (including emergency lighting), medical equipment, or cordless power tools despite the general cadmium restriction of 0,002% in portable batteries and accumulators. After enforcement of the new law, the use of this type of battery will be further limited to emergency systems and lighting as well as in medical equipment. Power tool makers will need to turn to alternative technologies like lithium-ion-batteries. Manufacturers are also required to consider a possibility for easy removal of waste batteries, at least by professional parties, in the design of their products.

In addition to tightening cadmium bans, the European Parliament continues its policy to remove mercury from waste streams and the environment by including a ban of mercury in button cells. Such batteries are commonly used in small electronic devices like watches, toys or remote controls. The proposed new rule indicated that the ban of mercury in button cells will align with the current Battery Directive mercury limit of 0,0005 %.

After implementation of the new law, affected batteries and accumulators may be sold until the stock is exhausted.

<sup>1</sup> [Directive 2006/66/EC](#)

<sup>2</sup> [SafeGuardS 057/13](#)

<sup>3</sup> [European Parliament News: MEPs ban cadmium from power tool batteries and mercury from button cells](#)

SGS is committed to keeping you up to date on the latest regulations and policies concerning the use of hazardous substances in consumer products. Furthermore, through its global expertise and network of chemical laboratories, SGS can support you in ensuring your products comply with relevant hazardous substances requirements on all relevant markets around the world.

Whether you are in need of hazardous substances testing or other third party verification, certification or inspection services, SGS is ideally positioned to satisfy all your business's needs.

[www.sgs.com/cgnr](http://www.sgs.com/cgnr)



---

FOR ENQUIRIES:

Global Competence Support Centre:  
[gcsc@sgs.com](mailto:gcsc@sgs.com)

DE—Udo Krischke, Tel: +49 (0)6128 - 744 235  
or [udo.krischke@sgs.com](mailto:udo.krischke@sgs.com)

Asia – Hong Kong,  
Tel: +852 2334 4481,  
[mktg.hk@sgs.com](mailto:mktg.hk@sgs.com)

Australasia – Perth.  
Tel: +61 (0) 3 9790 3418  
[au.cts@sgs.com](mailto:au.cts@sgs.com)

Europe – London – UK.  
Tel: +44(0) 203 008 7860  
[gb.cts.sales@sgs.com](mailto:gb.cts.sales@sgs.com)

Africa & Middle East – Turkey.  
Tel: +90 212 368 40 00  
[sgs.turkey@sgs.com](mailto:sgs.turkey@sgs.com)

Americas – USA.  
Tel: +1 973 575 5252  
[uscts.inquiries@sgs.com](mailto:uscts.inquiries@sgs.com)

[www.sgs.com/cgnr](http://www.sgs.com/cgnr)

© SGS Group Management SA – 2013 – All rights reserved  
- SGS is a registered trademark of SGS Group Management SA. This is a publication of SGS, except for 3<sup>rd</sup> parties' contents submitted or licensed for use by SGS. SGS neither endorses nor disapproves said 3<sup>rd</sup> parties contents. This publication is intended to provide technical information and shall not be considered an exhaustive treatment of any subject treated. It is strictly educational and does not replace any legal requirements or applicable regulations. It is not intended to constitute consulting or professional advice. The information contained herein is provided "as is" and SGS does not warrant that it will be error-free or will meet any particular criteria of performance or quality. Do not quote or refer any information herein without SGS's prior written consent.