

Detailed guide: Waste batteries: producer responsibility

Updated: The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) is now known as the Office for Product Safety and Standards.

Battery producers are responsible for minimising harmful effects of waste batteries on the environment, by:

- improving the design of new batteries – you must follow [‘placing on the market’](#) rules
- paying for waste battery collection, treatment, recycling and disposal – you must follow the rules on this page

It’s illegal to send waste industrial or vehicle and other automotive batteries for incineration or to landfill.

You’re a battery producer if you have a UK business presence and you’re the first person in your selling chain (including importers) to make batteries available for supply or sale on the UK market.

Battery producers must:

- register with the appropriate [environmental regulator](#)
- accurately record the tonnage and chemistry of batteries placed on the market

How you register depends on the type of battery you sell and the amount of batteries you put on the market.

The types of battery include:

- portable
- vehicle and other automotive
- industrial

To check which type of batteries you place on the market see [Waste batteries and accumulators: technical guidance](#).

Approved or appropriate person

You must be an approved or appropriate person to sign applications for approval and registration and to submit data and statements of declaration of compliance.

See the [Waste batteries and accumulators: technical guidance](#) on what constitutes an approved or appropriate person.

Use the [delegation of approved/appropriate person form](#) if you want to delegate to another person. Sign the form and send it to your [environmental regulator](#).

Portable battery producer: register

Place more than 1 tonne a year on the market

You must pay for the collection, treatment and recycling of waste portable batteries. You do this by joining a [battery compliance scheme \(BCS\)](#) by 15 October before the start of the compliance year (calendar year). You pay the BCS an annual fee and it takes on your duties.

The BCS will:

- register you annually with the correct environmental regulator
- pay the environmental regulator £600 annually for each member
- send information to your environmental regulator about the batteries you placed on the market in the previous 2 years and the current year
- get evidence notes for the collection, treatment and recycling of waste portable batteries
- send information to your environmental regulator about the waste batteries they collect and deliver for treatment and recycling

Tell your BCS within 14 days if you:

- need to make changes to your registration details
- are no longer a large portable battery producer

Place 1 tonne or less on the market

You must register with the [environmental regulator](#) of the UK country where your registered office is on the [National Packaging Waste Database \(NPWD\)](#).

Each year you must submit the tonnage and chemistry on the NPWD to confirm how many batteries you placed on the market in the previous year. This must be done by 31 January in the following year.

The annual charge is £30.

Tell your regulator if you're no longer a small portable battery producer within one month of the change.

Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE): batteries in products

If you place products containing batteries on the UK market, you will need to report separately the weight of:

- electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) you place on the market without batteries, as part of your [WEEE Regulations](#) duties
- batteries in the EEE, as part of your [Waste Battery Regulations](#) duties

Even if your EEE does not fall under the WEEE Regulations you will still be a battery producer.

Vehicle and automotive battery producer: register

You must register within 28 days of first placing your batteries on the UK market with the Office for Product Safety and Standards.

See the [definition](#) of a vehicle and automotive battery.

Register direct with the Office for Product Safety and Standards on the [NPWD](#).

You must provide the total tonnage, chemistry and brand name of automotive batteries you placed on the market by 31 March in the following year.

If you're also a large producer of portable batteries, you can register through your BCS.

Each producer has a duty to collect waste vehicle and other automotive waste batteries, free and within a reasonable timescale, when asked from the final holder, for example from:

- garages
- scrapyards
- end-of-life vehicle treatment sites
- local council waste collection sites

You must tell final holders how they can request the collection of waste vehicle batteries, for example through information on your website.

The waste batteries must go to an [approved battery treatment operator \(ABTO\)](#) or an [approved battery exporter \(ABE\)](#) for treatment and recycling.

Industrial battery producer: register

You must register with the Office for Product Safety and Standards within 28 days of first placing your batteries on the UK market.

Register direct with the Office for Product Safety and Standards on the [NPWD](#).

You must provide the total tonnage, chemistry and brand name of industrial batteries placed on the market by 31 March in the following year.

If you're also a large producer of portable batteries, you can register through your BCS.

You have a duty to:

- take back waste industrial batteries free of charge from any end-user, if you supply them with new batteries, if they're the same chemistry as batteries you place on the market or if they cannot be returned to another producer
- tell end users how they can return waste industrial batteries, for

example through information on your website

The waste batteries must go to an [ABTO](#) or an [ABE](#) for treatment and recycling.

Waste battery producers: extra information

Battery producer registration number (BPRN)

If you supply distributors or business end-users, put your BPRN on any paperwork like invoices, contracts or delivery notes.

Brand names

You're required to report the brand of any batteries you place on the market, as part of your registration, if this is available.

Records: extra information

You should record the weight of portable batteries placed on the UK market but afterwards exported. The government is trying to assess the extent of this practice.

Technical information

See [Waste batteries and accumulators: technical guidance](#) for exclusions, definitions and battery classification.

Penalties

Failure to follow the regulations and carry out your duties may result in prosecution and a fine.

BCS: apply for approval

If you want to run a BCS you need approval from the environmental regulator of the UK country where you have a registered office or where you carry out the day to day running of your business. [Contact your regulator](#) for details on how to apply.

The charge to assess your application is £17,000. The annual subsistence charge for operating a BCS is £90,000 plus £600 for each member.

See [Waste batteries and accumulators: technical guidance](#) for exclusions, definitions and battery types.

Environmental regulators

Environment Agency (England)

Telephone: 03708 506 506*

Email: batteries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Northern Ireland Environment Agency

Telephone: 028 9056 9382*

Email: batteries@doeni.gov.uk

Scottish Environment Protection Agency

Telephone: 01786 457700*

Email: producer.responsibility@sepa.org.uk

Natural Resources Wales

Telephone: 0300 065 3000*

Email: enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

Office for Product Safety and Standards

Use the [online enquiry form](#) or write to:

Office for Product Safety and Standards

P0 Box 17200

Birmingham

B2 2YT

*[Call charge information](#)

‘Placing on the market’ responsibilities

For your responsibilities for improving the design and manufacture of new batteries, follow the [Batteries and accumulators: placing on the market regulations guidance](#).

More information

See the legislation and regulations for your responsibilities for waste batteries:

- [Batteries and Accumulators and Waste Batteries and Accumulators Directive 2006/66/EC](#)

- [Waste Batteries and Accumulators Regulations 2009](#)
- European Commission Blue Guide: [new legislative framework for marketing of products](#)