INDUSTRIAL ENERGY BUSINESS UNIT Marketing Product Management Network Power



Global Product Management NP Note		Nr.:	-
<u>Subject</u> :	EU directives: Battery Directive – WEEE – RoHS	Date:	10/13/2003
From	: Dr. Martin Sinz		
То	: Trade Areas (via Cross Functional Team)		

EU directives: Battery Directive – WEEE – RoHS

Since 1991, the marketing of batteries is regulated by the EU "Battery Directive" 91/157/EEC on batteries and accumulators containing certain dangerous substances (as amended by Directives 93/86/EEC and 98/101/EC).

On 13.02.2003, two new EU Directives were published in the Official Journal:

- 1. "WEEE" Directive 2002/96/EC on waste electrical and electronic equipment.
- 2. "RoHS" Directive 2002/95/EC on the restriction of the use of certain

hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment.

The question frequently asked by our customers is:

What will be the impact of the EU directives WEEE and RoHS on Exide's leadacid batteries?

In the Explanatory Memorandums and in the Articles that describe the Scope of WEEE and RoHS it is clearly stated that both Directives **apply without prejudice to** other Community's Directives on Waste, Safety and Health Requirements, in particular **the Council Directive 91/157/EEC on batteries and accumulators containing certain dangerous substances ("Battery Directive").**



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Some details:

The marketing restriction, as provided for in the **RoHS Directive**, on new equipment containing e.g. mercury, lead and cadmium does not apply to batteries used with or incorporated in electrical and electronic equipment. **The only source for marketing restrictions on Batteries is and will be the Battery Directive.**

The WEEE Directive applies to spent batteries collected together with WEEE (incorporated in equipment like electrical tooth brushes) and requires their removal and separate collection. Once removed from WEEE, spent batteries are governed by the Battery Directive.

The Battery Directive 91/157/EEC specifically mentions in its Article 9: "Member States may not impede, prohibit or restrict the marketing of batteries and accumulators covered by this Directive [...]"

Therefore, batteries containing lead or cadmium, as well as button cells with a mercury content of no more than 2% by weight can be used in electrical and electronic equipment after 1.7.2006. This applies to individual cells, battery packs or batteries attached to the equipment (i.e. soldered to parts of the equipment).

Dr. Martin Sinz