Recycling is the last phase of batteries and accumulators life cycle: it is very important for the environment benefits. In fact, the batteries are toxic and harmful (lead, sulfuric acid, mercury and cadmium, etc.)...

The batteries recycling process includes primarily the grinding of the batteries, then a phase for the separation of the various components (plastics, metal, etc.). Next stages are the neutralization of the electrolyte, metal materials refining and casting, which yields reusable secondary raw material in the new product manufacturing process.

The stage of recycling is therefore crucial to create a **closed loop** in which the refusal may be a matter for the manufacture of the new product.

DEFINITION

Recycling and treatment operations are so defined (Article 2, point h) and l), Legislative Decree 188/2008):

• "Recycling" means the treatment in a production process of waste materials for their original purpose or for other purposes but excluding energy recovery;

• "Treatment" means any activity carried on waste batteries and accumulators after the delivery to a facility for sorting, preparation for recycling or preparation for disposal.

OBLIGATIONS

(Article 10, Legislative Decree no. 188/2008)

• By September 26th , 2009, manufacturers or third parties acting on their behalf shall establish, individually or collectively, using the best available techniques in terms of human health and environment, systems for the waste batteries and accumulators treatment and recycling;

• all batteries and accumulators are subjected to treatment and recycling systems that comply with Community law, particularly with regard to health, safety and waste management.

• treatment should meet the minimum requirements set out in Annex II, Part A.

• from the year 2012, the waste batteries and accumulators recycling plants report annually to the Coordinating Centre (as in Article 16), before March 31, with reference to the preceding calendar year, information concerning the quantities of treated waste, broken down by individual type of batteries and accumulators, and the percentages of recycling achieved, with reference to three categories of batteries and accumulators included in Annex III, paragraph 3 b).

COBEU and the Recycling companies

Thanks to the collection chain, Cobeu is able to guarantee certain flows to the operators who carry out the recycling, to organize the proper and safe temporary storage, transportation to final destinations and to ensure fair conditions for all the associated plants.

We are selecting industrial partners engaged in the battery, solar and photovoltaic panel recycling.

The ongoing agreements tend to maintain the recycling flow with multi-year agreements with large and small recyclers, preferring the latter in the light of more common problems and ease of dialogue.