Directive 2006/66/EC

Directive 2006/66/EC repeals Directive 91/157/EEC and has as primary objective to minimize the negative environmental impact of batteries and accumulators and their waste. In detail:

• objective is to maximize portable and / or industrial and / or vehicles batteries and accumulators sorted collection, treatment and recovery through recycling and minimize landfilling or incineration of the same;
• EC Member States shall achieve the following collection rates: at least 25% by September 26th, 2012 and 45% by September 26th, 2016;
• standards for batteries and accumulators marketing are set and it is forbidden to market batteries and accumulators containing certain dangerous substances: there are restrictions on the use of mercury in all batteries and on the use of cadmium in portable batteries;
• certain levels of efficiency that must be met by recycling processes for the recovery of waste batteries and accumulators are established;
• the principle of manufacturer responsibility is introduced for which it is in the hands of the manufacturers the burden to finance the costs of exhausted batteries collecting, treating and recycling;
• distributors, when supplying batteries and accumulators, are required to recover the waste for free;
• waste batteries and accumulators collecting systems must not involve any charge to end-users when discarding the waste;
• information requirements for end-users and labeling requirements referred to manufacturers are introduced.

Download the Directive 2006/66/EC

Legislative Decree 188/2008

The Legislative Decree 188/2008 (OJ 283, 3.12.2008 - Ord. Add. No. 268) in Italy has implemented the Directive 2006/66/EC.

Legislative Decree 188/2008 primary objectives are the environmental protection and the protection of economic enterprise liberty, in the respect of competition and free markets principles.

• Private economic enterprise liberty is, in fact, encouraged because every business operator can arrange a waste batteries and accumulators independent collection and recycling activity;
• It is imposed, on manufacturers or third parties acting on their behalf, to organize and operate a separate collection of waste batteries and accumulators, adhering to existing systems or self-organizing them on an individual or collective base;

It is thus disrupted the monopoly system up to this day exercised by Cobat, eliminating the exhausted batteries mandatory contribution to Cobat and recognizing to the same a subsidiary role similar to that of the other market players.

• Manufacturers must finance the costs of collection, treatment and recycling of waste batteries and accumulators;
• Distributors, when supplying batteries and accumulators, are required to recover the waste for free;
• Waste batteries and accumulators collecting system must not involve any charge to end-users when discarding the waste;
• Information requirements for consumers and labeling requirements have been introduced;
• A Coordinating Center will be established, in the form of consortium, involving batteries and accumulators manufacturers; its tasks are:
- optimize the collection systems activities in order to increase the percentage of collection and recycling;
- organize information campaigns;
- arrange for capillary collection systems nationwide;
- ensure monitoring and data reporting relating to the collection and recycling and their transmission to ISPRA (Institute for Environmental Protection and Research);
- secure the link with the government.
• A National Batteries and accumulators Registry has been established to which it will have to enroll by 18/06/2009:
- domestic Manufacturers and Importers;
- Manufacturers not residing in the national territory;
- Financing Collective Systems

• The functions of monitoring the implementation of the decree are assigned to a Committee of Supervision and control; with regular reports, the Ministry of the Environment will send to the European Commission updates on the implementation of the measure.

Cobeu will guarantee the implementation of all provisions according to the Regulations. Sanctions for the violation of the obligations laid down by Decree are foreseen.

Download the Legislative Decree 188/2008

Download the attachments to the Legislative Decree 188/2008

Legislative Decree 21/2011

The Legislative Decree 21/2011 amended and replaced some of the 188/2008 Legislative Decree provisions.

Download the Legislative Decree 21/2011