

Watch your waste line or it could cost you!

New regulations come into force in February 2010 governing the sale and collection of batteries. **PMA** asked **Steve Clark** of Budget Pack to explain how these new regulations would affect photo retailers

The first question is "Are you a Battery Distributor?"

Battery Distributor means a person (or company) that provides batteries to end users on a professional basis. It covers both retailers selling to consumers and those selling batteries to businesses.

Examples of distributors are:

- A shop that sells batteries from a UK supplier to end users;
- An online shop that sells equipment containing batteries via the internet to end users;
- A wholesaler that sells batteries from a UK supplier to both end users and retailers.

Different rules apply if you sell more than 32kg of batteries per year:

Distributors selling more than 32kg of portable batteries

From February 1, 2010 if you sell more than 32kg of portable batteries per year to end users you will have to take back waste portable batteries from end users without charge.

What does 32kg of batteries look like?

If you sell 25xAA batteries a week that's about 32kg per year.

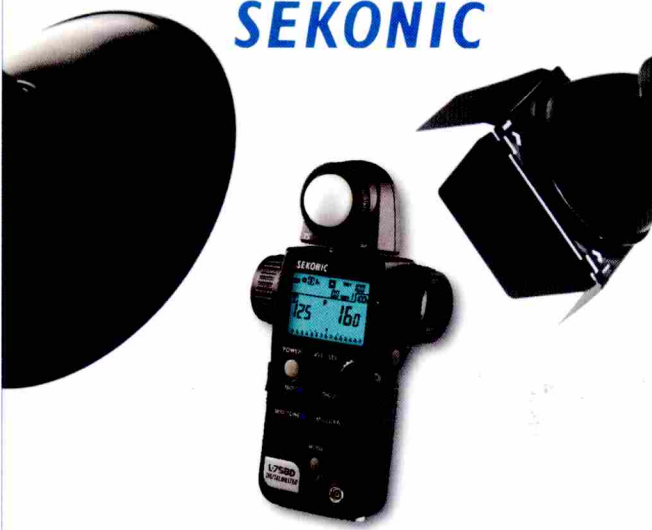
- The 32kg criterion applies to each sales outlet.
- The take back obligations apply both to shops and distance sellers within the UK who sell to end users.
- Take back obligations only apply to distributors who sell portable batteries separately. If you **only** sell products containing portable batteries you **do not** have to take back batteries from end users.
- You have to accept all types of portable batteries (not just the kind you sell).
- You do not have to accept automotive or industrial batteries.
- You must dispose of waste batteries from your take back arrangements through a Battery Compliance Scheme.
- You may ask any Battery Compliance Scheme to collect your waste batteries and they must collect these free of charge.
- You are not allowed to charge end users for disposing of their batteries through your take back arrangements.
- You are not allowed to oblige end users to buy new batteries when disposing of their old batteries.
- You may not charge the Battery Compliance Scheme for collection.
- You will also have to provide information at your sales points to end users about your take back arrangements.
- Distance sellers will have to tell their customers how they take back waste portable batteries eg through their mail order adverts, online information and/or leaflets included with purchases.

Distributors selling 32kg or less of portable batteries

You do not have to take back waste portable batteries from end users but if you choose to take back batteries from end users you are not entitled to free collection by Battery Compliance Scheme.

What happens and what do you need to do if you are a 'producer' of batteries? If you **import batteries OR equipment which contains batteries** you **MUST** register your business as a Producer under the Batteries Regulations before October 15, 2009 to avoid prosecution. We'll bring you more information about how you'll be affected if you're a Producer in the next edition of PMA Newslines.


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