

European Directives WEEE 2012/19/EU and ROHS 2011/65/EU

The ROHS directive (Restriction of Hazardous Substances in Electrical Equipment) covers the same scope as the WEEE directive (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment). Batteries and accumulators do not fall into any of the ten categories listed by the WEEE directive. Therefore we consider that our appropriate response is to declare that our range of products is outside the scope of each of these directives. The RoHS Directive 2011/65/EU (RoHS 2) FAQ from 12 December 2012 states the following in regard to batteries;

Q1.6 Are batteries within the scope of RoHS?

No. Recital 14 of RoHS 2 specifically states that RoHS should apply without prejudice to the Batteries Directive. Recital 29 of the batteries and accumulators directive (2006/66/EC) states RoHS does not apply to batteries and accumulators used in electrical and electronic equipment.

The European directive that is directly relevant to batteries and accumulators is Council directive 2006/66/EC, which specifies that batteries containing mercury, lead or cadmium should be collected separately when spent and should carry an identifying label.

Power-Sonic Corporation sealed lead acid batteries conform to Commission Directive 93/86/EEC, which requires that the product is labeled with the WEEE symbol (a crossed out wheelie bin and the appropriate chemical symbol). This is designed to inform the end user to separate batteries from other waste. Power-Sonic Corporation Nickel Cadmium batteries do not comply with the above directives, however Power-Sonic Europe Nickel Cadmium batteries do comply.

Under existing legislation (currently under review) there is presently no specific framework for battery collection and recycling. In the absence of this, Power-Sonic Europe's policy is to accept returns of our product at the customer's expense (or even competitor product for existing customers who experience difficulty with their former supplier). To ensure proper recycling, we then route the batteries through Environment Agency procedures using approved waste carriers and licensed sites.

