

## **Translation from Finnish**

**Legally binding only in Finnish and Swedish**

**Ministry of the Environment, Finland**

### **Government Decree on Batteries and Accumulators**

*(520/2014; amendments up to 1027/2021 included)*

By decision of the Government, the following is enacted under the Waste Act (646/2011) as well as under section 16, as amended by Act 252/2005, and section 52, subsection 4 of the Environmental Protection Act (86/2000):

#### **Section 1**

##### **Scope of application**

This Decree lays down provisions on measures to reduce the harmfulness of batteries and accumulators and to promote the recycling and other recovery of waste batteries and accumulators and to improve the level of quality of their treatment.

This Decree applies to batteries and accumulators regardless of their shape, volume, weight, material composition or use.

The Decree does not, however, apply to batteries or accumulators used in:

- 1) electrical and electronic equipment intended for specifically military purposes, arms, munitions or other products related to protecting essential national security interests referred to in section 4, subsection 1 of the Waste Act (646/2011);
- 2) electrical and electronic equipment designed to be sent into space.

#### **Section 2**

##### **Definitions**

For the purposes of this Decree:

- 1) *battery* means any source of electrical energy generated by direct conversion of chemical energy and consisting of one or more primary battery cells that are non-rechargeable;
- 2) *accumulator* means any source of electrical energy generated by direct conversion of chemical energy and consisting of one or more secondary battery cells that are rechargeable;

- 3) *battery pack* means any set of batteries or accumulators that are connected together or encapsulated within an outer casing so as to form a complete unit that the user is not intended to split up or open;
- 4) *portable battery or accumulator* means any battery, accumulator or battery pack that:
  - a) is sealed;
  - b) can be hand-carried; and
  - c) is neither an industrial battery or accumulator nor an automotive battery or accumulator;
- 5) *button cell* means any small round portable battery or accumulator whose diameter is greater than its height and which is used in hearing aids, watches, small portable electrical and electronic equipment or other special purposes or as back-up power;
- 6) *automotive battery or accumulator* means any battery or accumulator used for automotive starter, lighting or ignition power;
- 7) *industrial battery or accumulator* means any battery or accumulator designed for exclusively industrial or professional uses or used in any type of electric vehicle;
- 8) *waste battery or accumulator* means any battery or accumulator which is waste within the meaning referred to in section 5 of the Waste Act;
- 9) *electrical and electronic equipment* means equipment referred to in section 48, subsection 1, paragraph 3 of the Waste Act which is fully or partly powered by batteries or accumulators or is capable of being so;
- 10) *producer* means any natural or legal person that, irrespective of the selling technique used, places batteries or accumulators, including batteries and accumulators incorporated into electrical and electronic equipment or vehicles, on the market for the first time in Finland on a professional basis; (1027/2021)
- 11) *placing on the market* means supplying or making available, whether in return for payment or free of charge, to a third party within the European Union and includes import into the customs territory of the European Union;

12) *distributor* means anyone that provides batteries and accumulators on a professional basis to a user;

13) *economic operator* means any producer, distributor, collector, recycler or other treatment operator;

14) *collection rate* means the percentage obtained by dividing the weight of waste portable batteries and accumulators separately collected in Finland in a given calendar year by the average weight of portable batteries and accumulators that producers either sell directly to users or deliver to third parties in order to sell them to users in Finland during that calendar year and the preceding two calendar years; the annual collection and sales figures shall include portable batteries and accumulators incorporated into electrical and electronic equipment.

The annual sales of portable batteries and accumulators referred to in subsection 1, paragraph 14 above shall be calculated as the weight of portable batteries and accumulators placed on the market in Finland in the year concerned, excluding any portable batteries and accumulators that have left Finland in that year before being sold to users. The calculations shall be based on data collected on sales and exports or statistically significant estimates based on such data. The placing on the market of each battery or accumulator shall be counted once.

### **Section 3**

#### **Restrictions on certain hazardous substances**

The following batteries and accumulators, including batteries and accumulators incorporated into electrical and electronic appliances, vehicles and other products, may not be placed on the market:

1) batteries and accumulators containing more than 0.0005 per cent of mercury by weight; (104/2015)

2) portable batteries and accumulators containing more than 0.002 per cent of cadmium by weight, excluding batteries and accumulators intended for use in emergency and alarm systems, including emergency lighting, or medical electrical and electronic equipment.

However, the provisions on restrictions on the use of certain hazardous substances in vehicles laid down in the Government Decree on End-of-Life Vehicles and Restrictions on the Use of Hazardous Substances in Vehicles (123/2015) apply to hazardous substances contained in automotive

batteries and accumulators and industrial batteries and accumulators used in vehicles referred to in section 48, subsection 1, paragraph 2 of the Waste Act. (1027/2021)

## **Section 4**

### **Development of the performance of batteries and accumulators**

Manufacturers and placers on the market of batteries and accumulators shall, in addition to the provisions of section 9 of the Waste Act on products and their design, manufacture and placing on the market, ensure that:

- 1) batteries and accumulators are designed and manufactured in such a way that, where possible, their environmental performance throughout their entire life cycle is continuously improved;
- 2) batteries and accumulators manufactured and marketed contain a minimised quantity of hazardous substances and that mercury, cadmium, lead and other hazardous substances have been substituted, where possible, by less harmful substances.

## **Section 5 (1027/2021)**

### **Collection rate of waste portable batteries and accumulators**

Producers shall ensure that the annual collection rate of separately collected waste portable batteries and accumulators is at least 45 per cent by weight.

The collection rate of waste portable batteries and accumulators shall be monitored by the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Pirkanmaa.

## **Section 6**

### **General requirements concerning the organisation of waste management**

The reception, treatment and other waste management of waste batteries and accumulators shall, having regard to the environmental impact of transport, be organised in such a way that:

- 1) the separate collection of batteries and accumulators is maximised;
- 2) all separately collected identifiable batteries and accumulators are recycled or undergo treatment in other ways;
- 3) high recycling efficiency is achieved in the treatment of batteries and accumulators;

4) the disposal of batteries and accumulators in mixed municipal waste is minimised.

Provisions on the obligation to promote preparing for re-use in the context of waste collection are laid down in section 11a of the Waste Act. (1027/2021)

## **Section 7**

### **Organisation of reception of waste batteries and accumulators**

The producer shall organise the reception of waste batteries and accumulators in such a way that the following minimum requirements for service level and accessibility are met:

- 1) the delivery of batteries and accumulators to a reception point is, in accordance with section 49, subsection 1 of the Waste Act, free of charge and effortless for holders and other deliverers of waste batteries and accumulators;
- 2) taking account of population density, there is equal regional access to reception points across the country;
- 3) reception points intended for batteries and accumulators of a specific type of battery and accumulator accept all waste batteries and accumulators of that type delivered to them, regardless of their chemical composition or origin;
- 4) the network of fixed reception points is, where necessary, supplemented by mobile reception points, a pickup service or another equivalent collection arrangement;
- 5) where necessary, the reception of waste batteries and accumulators is coordinated with reception and waste management systems based on producer responsibility concerning electrical and electronic equipment and vehicles referred to in section 48, subsection 1, paragraph 2 of the Waste Act.

Provisions on exemptions from cost responsibility of producers concerning the organisation of waste management for industrial batteries and accumulators and for automotive batteries and accumulators other than those from private vehicles are laid down in section 53, subsection 2 of the Waste Act.

Provisions on the distributor's obligation to accept waste portable batteries and accumulators and automotive batteries and accumulators as well as to transfer them to a carrier or treatment operator acting on behalf of the producer are laid down in section 56 of the Waste Act.

## **Section 8**

### **Specific requirements concerning the reception of waste automotive batteries and accumulators**

In addition to the provisions of section 7, subsection 1, producers of automotive batteries and accumulators shall organise the reception of equivalent waste batteries and accumulators in a such a way that there are at least 400 fixed reception points across the country and that there is at least one such reception point in each municipality. If the requirements for the level of service and accessibility of reception are met in other respects, the fixed reception point of a municipality may be replaced with another collection arrangement referred to in section 7, subsection 1, paragraph 4.

## **Section 9**

### **General requirements concerning treatment**

The storage, recycling and other treatment of separately collected waste batteries and accumulators shall be organised as follows:

- 1) where batteries or accumulators are collected together with waste electrical and electronic equipment or vehicles referred to in section 48, subsection 1, paragraph 2 of the Waste Act, batteries or accumulators shall be removed from the separately collected end-of-life vehicles or waste electrical and electronic equipment;
- 2) fluids and acids shall be removed from batteries and accumulators;
- 3) temporary or other storage and treatment shall be organised in sites with impermeable surfaces and suitable weatherproof covering, or storage shall be take place in suitable containers;
- 4) best available techniques shall be used;
- 5) it shall be ensured that the recycling efficiency requirements laid down in section 10 below are met;
- 6) where possible, Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS), repealing Regulation (EC) No 761/2001 and Commission Decisions 2001/681/EC and 2006/193/EC shall be complied with.

Record-keeping in accordance with section 118 of the Waste Act concerning the storage and other treatment of waste batteries and accumulators shall include information also on the quantity of batteries and accumulators as well their materials and substances delivered for recycling or other treatment and delivered elsewhere after treatment as well as the recycling efficiency of the processes.

## **Section 10**

### **Recycling efficiency**

The recycling of separately collected waste batteries and accumulators shall be organised in such a way that the recycling process fulfils the following minimum requirements for recycling efficiency:

- 1) recycling of 65 per cent by average weight of lead-acid batteries and accumulators, including recycling of the lead content to the highest degree taking account of best available technology;
- 2) recycling of 75 per cent by average weight of nickel-cadmium batteries and accumulators, including recycling of the cadmium content to the highest degree taking account of best available technology;
- 3) recycling of 50 per cent by average weight of other waste batteries and accumulators.

Provisions on the calculation procedure for recycling efficiency referred to in subsection 1 above and on the reporting of efficiency information are laid down in Commission Regulation (EU) No 493/2012 laying down, pursuant to Directive 2006/66/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, detailed rules regarding the calculation of recycling efficiencies of the recycling processes of waste batteries and accumulators.

## **Section 11 (1027/2021)**

### **Restrictions on the disposal of waste automotive batteries and accumulators and industrial batteries and accumulators**

Besides the provisions of section 15a of the Waste Act, the disposal in landfills or by incineration of waste automotive batteries and accumulators and industrial batteries and accumulators is prohibited.

However, residues of any batteries and accumulators that have undergone recycling and other treatment in accordance with the provisions of section 9 above may be disposed of in landfills or by incineration in compliance with the provisions on waste incineration and landfilling laid down in

the Environmental Protection Act (527/2014) and the Waste Act as well as in provisions laid down under them.

## **Section 12**

### **Environmental permit**

Provisions on applications for an environmental permit for the storage, recycling and other treatment of waste batteries and accumulators and the processing of permit matters are laid down in the Environmental Protection Act.

The environmental permit shall provide the regulations necessary for compliance with the obligations in accordance with sections 9–11 on the storage and other treatment of waste batteries and accumulators.

## **Section 13**

### **Transboundary shipments**

Provisions on transboundary shipments of waste batteries and accumulators are laid down in the Waste Act and in Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on shipments of waste. (1027/2021)

Shipments of waste batteries and accumulators to countries other than Member States of the European Union are regarded as meeting the recycling efficiency requirements referred to in section 10 only if there is sound evidence that the recycling or other treatment is also otherwise organised in a manner meeting the requirements of this Decree.

## **Section 14**

### **Labelling of batteries, accumulators and battery packs**

Producers shall ensure that batteries, accumulators and battery packs placed on the market are labelled with markings indicating their separate collection and heavy metal content in accordance with Annex 2.

Provisions on capacity labelling of portable batteries or accumulators as well as automotive batteries or accumulators are laid down in Commission Regulation (EU) No 1103/2010 establishing, pursuant to Directive 2006/66/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, rules as regards capacity labelling of portable secondary (rechargeable) and automotive batteries and accumulators.



## **Section 15 (1027/2021)**

### **Provision of information for users**

The producer shall, by means of public information campaigns and other information, advice and awareness measures ensure that households and other users are provided with comprehensive information about:

- 1) the effects on the environment and health of the substances used in batteries and accumulators;
- 2) the separate collection requirements and instructions concerning waste batteries and accumulators, the significance of taking part in separate collection and the ways in which the recycling of waste batteries and accumulators can be promoted;
- 3) the collection systems and reception points available;
- 4) the labelling referred to in section 14;
- 5) the potential for reducing the quantity and harmfulness of waste and preventing littering.

Provisions on the producer's obligation to publish information on the fulfilment of its obligations concerning the separate collection and recovery of waste are laid down in section 54 of the Waste Act. Provisions on the obligation of a producer responsibility organisation to publish information on its owners and members, on payments levied from producers as well as on the general principles and procedures followed in their service procurement are laid down in sections 63 and 66 of the said Act.

## **Section 15a (1027/2021)**

### **Authorised representative's obligation to provide information**

An authorised representative authorised by such an operator established in another country that supplies batteries and accumulators to the Finnish market by means other than distance selling directly to end users shall, without delay, provide information about its authorisation and acceptance into a producer register as well as about any amendment or cancellation of the authorisation or acceptance to a producer that, in the absence of the authorisation received, would be responsible for the producer responsibility obligations for those batteries and accumulators. If the above-mentioned producer on whose behalf the authorised representative carries out the producer responsibility obligations for the batteries and accumulators concerned is a member of a

producer responsibility organisation, the authorised representative shall, in addition, inform the producer responsibility without delay on its authorisation and the date of the authorisation.

The authorised representative shall provide information in accordance with the provisions of subsection 1 on the type, nature and quantity of the products it places on the market and state how compliance with producer responsibility obligations is organised. The producer responsibility organisation shall, in addition, be informed who would have been responsible for the producer responsibility obligations for the said products in the absence of the authorisation received.

## **Section 15b (1027/2021)**

### **Self-monitoring**

The plan for self-monitoring referred to in section 53a of the Waste Act shall contain:

- 1) an account of the compilation of the monitoring data referred to in section 21 and an assessment of the reliability of the data as well as a plan to improve the reliability of the data;
- 2) an assessment of the fulfilment of the producer's cost responsibility referred to in section 46 of the Waste Act;
- 3) an account of the producer's payment contributions referred to in section 63a of the Waste Act and of the criteria for their adaptation as well as of their monitoring;
- 4) procedures for the regular reassessment and development of the payment contributions and the criteria for their adaptation referred to in paragraph 3;
- 5) a plan for the implementation and organisation of self-monitoring as well as for audits conducted to support self-monitoring.

Audits to support self-monitoring shall be conducted by an auditor who is an impartial third party independent of the producer, producer responsibility organisation and its owners. The auditor shall have the necessary knowledge, skills and other qualifications for the performance of the task. Audits may be conducted in multiple parts, taking account of the auditor's special expertise, or included in another equivalent external audit of the activities of the producer responsibility organisation. If the producer has a certified management system, the audit may be incorporated into that system.

## **Section 15c (1027/2021)**

## **Producers' payment contributions**

Provisions on criteria for producers' payment contributions and their adaptation are laid down in section 63a of the Waste Act.

When determining administrative charges, the adaptation of payment contributions referred to in section 63a, subsection 2 of the Waste Act is not used as a criterion. Administrative charges shall be determined in such a way that their share is not unreasonably high compared with the quantity of batteries and accumulators placed on the market by the producer and with the payments based on their waste management and other producer responsibility obligations.

### **Section 16**

#### **Indication of waste management costs in product price**

The costs arising from the collection, recycling and other treatment of waste portable batteries and accumulators may not be indicated separately to users when selling new batteries or accumulators.

### **Section 17**

#### **Producer's application for acceptance into the producer register**

A producer's application for acceptance into the producer register specified in section 101, subsection 1 of the Waste Act shall contain:

- 1) the producer's name, postal address and contact details, geographical address, internet address, telephone and fax number, email address as well as the name and contact details of a contact person;
- 2) trademarks which the producer uses in the marketing of batteries and accumulators;
- 3) the producer's business identity code and European or national tax number;
- 4) information on the batteries and accumulators placed on the market by the producer specified by type of battery and accumulator in accordance with section 2, subsection 1, paragraphs 4, 6 and 7 and an assessment of the quantity of batteries and accumulators in tonnes per year;
- 5) information on how the producer intends to fulfil its obligation to organise the reception and other waste management of waste batteries and accumulators

5 a) the self-monitoring plan; (1027/2021)

5 b) a list of the Member States to which the producer sells batteries and accumulators by distance selling directly to users and the names of any authorised representatives in those Member States; (1027/2021)

6) the date on which the application for the acceptance of the producer into the producer register was made;

7) a declaration stating that the information provided is true.

### **Section 18 (1027/2021)**

#### **Producer responsibility organisation's application for acceptance into the producer register**

A producer responsibility organisation's application referred to in section 101, subsection 1 of the Waste Act shall contain:

- 1) the producer responsibility organisation's name or business name, contact and address details, contact person's name, position and contact details, and business identity code;
- 2) the information referred to in section 17, subsection 1, paragraphs 1–3 concerning the producers belonging to the producer responsibility organisation and the dates on which they joined the producer responsibility organisation, and the name, business identity code and scope of activity of each founder of the producer responsibility organisation;
- 3) information on the batteries and accumulators placed on the market by the producers belonging to the producer responsibility organisation specified by type of battery and accumulator in accordance with section 2, subsection 1, paragraphs 4, 6 and 7 and an assessment of the quantity of batteries and accumulators in tonnes per year;
- 4) an account of the division of obligations between the producers and of how new producers can agree on the carrying out of producer responsibility with the producer responsibility organisation;
- 5) information on the reception point network, transport, pretreatment, recycling and other waste management for waste batteries and accumulators organised by the producer responsibility organisation as well as an assessment of the quantity, in tonnes per year, of waste batteries

and accumulators included in waste management organised by the producer responsibility organisation specified in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3;

- 6) information on agreements concerning the organisation of waste management and of the environmental permits and any environmental management systems of the contractual partners;
- 7) a plan on the provision of information on batteries and accumulators and on reception of waste batteries and accumulators;
- 8) the self-monitoring plan;
- 9) a report on the producer responsibility organisation's sufficient financial arrangements for the appropriate organisation of its activities, including the adopted financial statements for the most recent financial period and the budget for the financial period underway;
- 10) the date on which the application was made;
- 11) a declaration stating that the information provided is true.

## **Section 19**

### **Specific regulations concerning the producer registration number**

A decision concerning the acceptance of a producer and producer responsibility organisation into the producer register shall issue regulations on the producer registration number.

## **Section 20**

### **Notification of changes in activities**

The notification in accordance with section 106 of the Waste Act concerning substantial changes in the activities of the producer or producer responsibility organisation and changes of members of the producer responsibility organisation shall be submitted without delay and no later than within one month of any change.

Provisions on when to submit the report on sufficient financial arrangements as well as the updated action plan concerning the organisation of waste management if the activities of the producer responsibility organisation substantially change are laid down in section 64, subsection 1 of the Waste Act. (1027/2021)

## **Section 21 (1027/2021)**

### **Notification of monitoring data**

A producer or a producer responsibility organisation acting on behalf of its members shall notify the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Pirkanmaa by the end of June of each year of the following information concerning the previous year by type of battery or accumulator specified as laid down in section 2, subsection 1, paragraphs 4, 6 and 7:

- 1) the quantity of batteries and accumulators placed on the market in Finland, including batteries and accumulators incorporated into electrical and electronic equipment and into vehicles;
- 2) the quantity of collected waste batteries and accumulators, including batteries and accumulators removed from electrical and electronic equipment and vehicles;
- 3) the quantity of recycled waste batteries and accumulators and the attained recycling efficiency specified by treatment facility, and the name and location of the facility;
- 4) the quantity of waste batteries and accumulators shipped to another country, specified data on their recycling, and the attained recycling efficiency specified by treatment facility, and the name and location of the facility;
- 5) implemented provision of information on batteries and accumulators and on waste batteries and accumulators;
- 6) information on the measures and audits required by the self-monitoring plan.

The notification referred to in subsection 1 above shall be accompanied by a report referred to in section 64, subsection 1 of the Waste Act on sufficient financial arrangements and, where necessary, a reassessed action plan on organising waste management for waste batteries and accumulators. The report on sufficient financial arrangements shall include the adopted financial statements for the most recent financial period and the budget for the financial period underway. If the said documents cannot be submitted, other reliable proof shall be provided of sufficient financial arrangements.

The notification shall also be accompanied by an account of the assessment and calculation principles for the data submitted. Quantity data shall be provided by weight in tonnes per year.

## **Section 22 (1027/2021)**

## **Compilation of data for monitoring and supervision**

In order to monitor and supervise compliance with the obligations laid down in this Decree, the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Pirkanmaa shall annually check and compile the monitoring data referred to in section 21. The Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Pirkanmaa shall also compile the other necessary information and assessments concerning the quantity of batteries and accumulators placed on the market in Finland and the quantity of separately collected waste batteries and accumulators recycled in Finland or shipped to another country. The compilation shall contain an assessment of the collection rate of waste portable batteries and accumulators and of the collection rate and the recycling efficiency of recycling processes of other batteries and accumulators. It shall also specify how the monitoring data and other information was obtained or received.

The Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Pirkanmaa shall submit the information on recycling efficiency referred to in section 10 and the information on the collection rate referred to in section 5, subsection 2 to the European Commission annually within 18 months from the end of the calendar year for which the data is compiled.

Where necessary, the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Pirkanmaa shall make the information referred to in sections 21 and 22 available to treatment facilities of waste batteries and accumulators and to authorities supervising transboundary shipments of waste for inspection and other supervisory measures.

## **Section 23 (1027/2021)**

### **Cooperation and exchange of information with other Member States of the European Union**

To ensure the appropriate implementation of section 66a of the Waste Act and the provisions of this Decree, the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Pirkanmaa shall, for its part, ensure cooperation and a sufficient flow of information with relevant authorities of other Member States of the European Union. The cooperation shall include granting access to relevant documents, information and audit results, unless otherwise provided in the Act on the Openness of Government Activities (621/1999), the Data Protection Act (1050/2018) or Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation). Electronic transmission of data shall be used in the cooperation and exchange of information included in producer registers. To

promote the implementation and supervision of the registration procedure, the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Pirkanmaa shall, as appropriate, publish on its website links to the producer registers or the website of the authority supervising producer responsibility of the other Member States of the European Union.

## **Section 24 (1027/2021)**

### **Market surveillance**

The market surveillance authority for batteries and accumulators referred to in section 24a of the Waste Act supervises compliance with sections 3, 14 and 16 of this Decree.

Provisions on market surveillance are laid down in Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 of the European Parliament and of the Council on market surveillance and compliance of products and amending Directive 2004/42/EC and Regulations (EC) No 765/2008 and (EU) No 305/2011 as well as in the Act on the Market Surveillance of Certain Products (1137/2016).

## **Section 25**

### **Transitional provisions and entry into force**

This Decree enters into force on 15 July 2014.

This Decree repeals Government Decree on Batteries and Accumulators 422/2008. However, section 3, subsection 1, paragraph 1 of the repealed Decree applies until 30 September 2015 and section 3, subsection 1, paragraph 2 of the repealed Decree until 31 December 2016.

However, section 3, subsection 1, paragraph 1 of this Decree applies from 1 October 2015, section 3, subsection 1, paragraph 2 of this Decree from 1 January 2017 and section 8 of this Decree from 1 January 2015.

The next implementation report referred to in section 23 shall be submitted in 2016 and shall cover a period until 26 September 2015.

A producer or a producer responsibility organisation representing the producer accepted into the producer register prior to the entry into force of this Decree shall check that the activities and the information provided meet the requirements laid down in the Decree and, where necessary, shall submit the revised information to the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Pirkanmaa no later than 31 December 2014.



*Annex 1 was repealed by Decree 1027/2021.*

*Annex 2*

### **Markings indicating the separate collection of batteries, accumulators and battery packs**

1. The symbol indicating separate collection is the crossed-out wheeled bin:



2. Batteries and accumulators, including button cells, containing more than 0.0005 per cent mercury, more than 0.002 per cent cadmium or more than 0.004 per cent lead shall, in addition, be marked with the chemical symbol for the metal concerned: Hg, Cd or Pb. The symbol indicating the heavy metal content shall be printed beneath the symbol shown in paragraph 1 and shall cover an area of at least one-quarter the size of that symbol.

3. The symbol shown in paragraph 1 shall cover at least 3 per cent of the area of the largest side of the battery, accumulator or battery pack, up to a maximum size of 5 × 5 cm. In the case of cylindrical cells, the symbol shall cover at least 1.5 per cent of the surface area of the battery or accumulator and shall have a maximum size of 5 × 5 cm.

4. Where the size of the battery, accumulator or battery pack is such that the symbol would be smaller than 0.5 × 0.5 cm, the battery, accumulator or battery pack need not be marked but a symbol measuring at least 1 × 1 cm shall be printed on the packaging.

5. Symbols shall be printed visibly, legibly and indelibly.

---

Entry into force and application of transitional provisions:

**104/2015:**

This Decree enters into force on 20 February 2015.

**1027/2021:**

This Decree enters into force on 1 December 2021. Section 24 shall, however, not enter into force until 1 January 2022.