

Some details:

The marketing restriction, as provided for in the **RoHS Directive**, on new equipment containing e.g. mercury, lead and cadmium does not apply to batteries used with or incorporated in electrical and electronic equipment. **The only source for marketing restrictions on Batteries is and will be the Battery Directive.**

The **WEEE Directive** applies to spent batteries **collected together with WEEE** (incorporated in equipment like electrical tooth brushes) and requires their removal and separate collection. **Once removed from WEEE, spent batteries are governed by the Battery Directive.**

The Battery Directive 91/157/EEC specifically mentions in its Article 9: "Member States may not impede, prohibit or restrict the marketing of batteries and accumulators covered by this Directive [...]"

Therefore, batteries containing lead or cadmium, as well as button cells with a mercury content of no more than 2% by **weight can be used in electrical and electronic equipment after 1.7.2006**. This applies to individual cells, battery packs or batteries attached to the equipment (i.e. soldered to parts of the equipment).

Dr. Martin Sinz