



Comhshaol, Oidhreacht agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Heritage and Local Government



12 March 2009

To the Secretary General of Each Government Department
the Chief Executive of Each State Body
each City and County Manager
the Director of Services (Environment) of each Local Authority

Provision of Take Back Facilities for Waste Portable Batteries at the Offices / Establishments of Government Departments, State Bodies, Agencies and Public Authorities.

I refer to my letter of 7 January 2008 to Government Departments concerning implementation of the Batteries Directive where I stated that collection rates and the achievement by Ireland of mandatory collection targets will be dependant on the number and accessibility of collection points.

In order to maximise take back arrangements for members of the public by providing collection points in addition to those at retail outlets and local authority civic amenity facilities; Article 25(c) of the Waste Management (Batteries and Accumulators) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No. 268 of 2008) enables any workplace, subject to the agreement of its management, to be designated as a collection point.

The responsibility for providing suitable receptacles for storing waste portable batteries (e.g. AAA, AA, Cell C, Cell D, PP3 etc.) and financing their collection and recycling will rest with the two approved producers' collective compliance schemes. Collection boxes for any office / establishment in the functional areas of –

- **Limerick City Council, Cavan, Clare, Fingal, Kerry, Limerick, Louth, Meath, and Monaghan County Councils** can be obtained from the European Recycling Platform (ERP) Ireland at Unit 9D, Nutgrove Office Park, Nutgrove Avenue, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14 by Phone: 01 299 5642 or E-mail: ireland@erp-recycling.org



- **all other local authorities** can be obtained from WEEE Ireland, Suite 18, The Mall, Beacon Court, Sandyford, Dublin 18 by Phone: 01 299 9320 or E-mail: info@weeeireland.ie



Waste portable batteries can then be deposited at local authority civic amenity facilities. The collective schemes will also collect 50 Kgs (10 WEEE Ireland / 2 ERP boxes) of waste batteries from a collection point. Article 25(c) of S.I. No. 268 of 2008 also permits collection points adjacent to each other (e.g. workplaces, schools, retail outlets etc.), by way of local arrangement, to bulk up waste batteries at one "collection point" to facilitate collection by a compliance scheme.

It is important that the public service is seen to take a lead in this respect. Given the level of employment and the multiplicity of locations throughout the county within the public service, the designation of each of their establishments would enable the Minister to refer to the example set in the public sector.

I would be grateful if this could be brought to the attention of –

- Officers with responsibilities for the provision of waste management services and/or accommodation issues in
- State Bodies, Agencies, Authorities and Councils under the auspices of

your organisation.

Further information on the Batteries Directive is available at <http://www.environ.ie/en/Environment/Waste/ProducerResponsibilityObligations/Batteries/>

Yours sincerely

Seán O'Suilleabháin
Assistant Principal
Waste Policy: Prevention and Recovery

Telephone No. 01 888 2741
Fax No. 01 888 2994
Email: sean_o'suilleabhain@environ.ie