



## Battery regulations around the world

Australia lags behind other developed countries in the regulation of handheld batteries. Listed below are some examples (not exhaustive) of how other jurisdictions are approaching battery recycling.

### Europe

The European Union introduced the *Directive 2006/66/EC on batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators* in 2006. Member countries must ensure appropriate collection systems are in place for portable batteries, and that distributors take back portable batteries at no charge to consumers. Targets include minimum collection rates of 25% by 2012 and 45% by 2016.

### United States

The disposal of nickel cadmium (NiCd) and small sealed lead acid (SSLA) batteries is banned in eight states, while batteries containing mercury are banned from disposal in six states.

Nine US states have a regulated extended producer responsibility (EPR) program for rechargeable batteries. For example, in New York retailers that sell rechargeable batteries (weighing less than twenty five pounds) are required to collect used batteries of the same type from customers for recycling. Battery manufacturers are responsible for developing state approved plans for collecting and recycling batteries at no expense to the consumer or retailer.

In response to regulatory initiatives the battery industry established a voluntary recycling program for rechargeable batteries ([Call2Recycle](#)). The industry is now working with regulators to establish uniform battery take-back laws for primary (single use) and secondary (rechargeable) batteries across the US. The first law was passed in 2014 in Vermont, and discussions are underway to introduce similar laws in Minnesota and California.

### Canada

British Columbia (BC), Quebec, Manitoba and Ontario all have regulations that mandate recycling of primary and secondary batteries. For example, in BC battery producers must either have an approved Product Stewardship Plan or appoint an agency to carry out their duties under a product stewardship plan. All batteries are covered by the regulations including automotive lead acid and portable batteries.

### Japan

The *Law for the Promotion of the Effective Utilization of Resources (2000)* requires all manufacturers and importers of rechargeable batteries (NiCd, nickel metal hydride (NiMH), lithium ion (li-ion) and SSLA), and equipment containing rechargeable batteries, to implement a system to recover them. Targets are 60% for NiCd, 55% for NiMH, 30% for Li-ion and 50% for SSLA batteries.