

**Unofficial Note of the Technical Adaptation Committee on the
Batteries Directive (2006/66/EC)
Meeting held in Brussels on 1 July 2010**

A. Summary

Meeting chaired by Thorsten Brunzema, with Ruska Kelevska, desk officer, in attendance. All member States present, with exception of France (delegate ill). Capacity labelling regulation adopted for rechargeable portable and automotive batteries. Discussion on capacity labelling for portable primaries, review of exemption of NiCds in power tools, and recycling efficiencies.

B. Detail

1. Capacity Labelling

Draft Commission Regulation

A vote was taken on the Commission's proposal for a regulation on a capacity labelling regime for secondary portables and automotive batteries. This was adopted virtually unanimously (one small State abstention). However, two MS asked the Commission to put the issue on the agenda again for the next TAC (possibly October), to see whether progress had been made in revising the IEC standard 50342 for automotives; if that resolved the "tolerance provision" disliked by some, then a further revision to the Commission measure might be possible (the proposal still has to go for scrutiny by the European Parliament).

Portable primary batteries

Shailendra Mudgal of BIO Intelligence gave a slide presentation of his study into possible capacity labeling systems for portable primaries. After protracted discussion, it was apparent that it was going to be extremely difficult to select from systems which were either so detailed as to be unintelligible for the average consumer, or so basic as to be of limited value, and might not deliver the "capacity" requirement of the Directive. One MS again raised the need for the Commission to justify in cost/benefit terms whatever labelling system, if any, they finally selected for TAC consideration, and the cost to the regulator, to guard against faulty capacity claims, should not be overlooked. The Commission asked for written comments on the BIO report options by 9 September.

2 NiCds in Cordless Power Tools

The consultants' report was on the Commission's website. One MS felt it contained deficiencies and, in light of the Commission's announcement that further cost/benefit work had been commissioned, asked whether it would be removed from the website until the second report was available to stand alongside it. The Commission undertook to consider this request, but doubted

whether the report would be temporarily deleted. The further work was expected to take until the end of 2010.

The same MS remarked that intervention in this market – which was already seeing the displacement of NiCd's – should only be done if convincing and quantified evidence of adverse environmental impact was available.

3 Recycling efficiencies

This was an extremely difficult and complex subject, and MS asked for and were granted an extension to end-July of the deadline for written comments. Most MS wanted clarity and simplification, and numerous detailed comments were made to the Commission's draft proposal.

4 Commission programme

DG Env announced they were working to the following timetable:

- Proposal on recycling efficiencies (end 2010)
- Proposed exemption from capacity labeling of portable primaries (2010)
- Proposal on export of batteries to 3rd countries (2011)
- Updated Q&A document (end 2010)

5 Date of next meeting

Provisionally 28 October 2010.

BIS

August 2010