

TAIWAN REVISES RESTRICTION ACT ON DRY CELL BATTERIES

Taiwan has notified WTO (Notification No. G/TBT/N/TPKM/178) to revise the Act of "Restrictions on the Manufacture, Import, and Sale of Dry Cell Batteries". In response to international trends in relation to dry cell battery management involving the EU, USA, China Mainland, etc., this new revision expands the scope of the Restrictions to cover button cell batteries, and also adds new heavy metal restriction items and more rigorous controls. The Revision will take effect from January 1, 2015.



Key Revisions

1. Enlarge restriction scopes

The Act only restricts non-button type cell batteries including manganese-zinc battery and alkaline manganese battery now. In the Revision, button cell batteries alkaline manganese battery, mercuric oxide battery and battery Silver oxide battery will be added into control.

2. Revise heavy metal restrictions

In order to effectively reduce the negative impact that heavy metals contained in batteries have on the environment, maximum permitted heavy metal content levels have been formulated for designated batteries; these restrictions will be implemented in different time phases.

Designated Battery Item	Maximum Permitted Heavy Metal Content	Timetable for Adoption
Non-button cell type batteries	Mercury contents≤5ppm	Until Dec 31, 2015
	Mercury contents≤1ppm Cadmium contents≤20ppm	Starting from Jan 1,2016
Button cell type batteries	Mercury contents≤5ppm Cadmium contents≤20ppm	Starting from Jan 1,2017

CTI Suggestion

Taiwan revises the battery Act in response to the global trend. If random testing reveals that a designated battery has a heavy metal content that exceeds the limits, the competent authority may order the manufacturer or importer to recall the product from stores and return or dispose of the product. Companies shall pay attention to the new restricts and fulfill the requirements according to the timetable.

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Other Requirements

Manufacturers and importers must apply to the competent authority at the municipal, county or city government level for a document confirming designated battery mercury and cadmium content before importation may take place. Separate test reports issued within the past three months shall be provided for batteries with different brands, models, specifications or external appearance. The confirmation document number shall be clearly labeled on packaging of batteries with width and height of the characters not less than 0.3 centimeters.

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