

# Sales Prohibition of Nickel-Cadmium Batteries in EU

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## ◆ Outline

Nickel-cadmium battery is widely used as power supply, especially for electric products, such as power tools, which need strong power. It is prohibited from placing on EU market by Directive of Batteries and Accumulators (2006/66/EC) which took effect in September 2006 because this kind of battery contains poisonous cadmium. However, the impact of immediate enforcement of the prohibition might be too strong and broad, therefore, be suspended only for some products such as medical equipments and cordless power tools.

This suspension will be reviewed in 2010, however, there is no alternative for cordless power tools to nickel-cadmium battery on power and cost. In addition, European users cannot use power tools without nickel-cadmium batteries, and have to dispose of them. Therefore, it needs to continue the suspension for power tools after 2010.

Battery manufacturers promote recycling in EU with the cooperation of the European battery recycling organization, 'RECHARGE' (<http://www.rechargebatteries.org>).

## ◆ Request

1. The suspension of prohibiting sales of nickel-cadmium battery in EU will be reviewed in 2010 by Directive of Batteries and Accumulators which took effect in 2006. However, it is extremely difficult to develop alternative technologies of battery for power tools because of capacity problem of the power supply. Therefore, the GOJ requests the European Commission to continue the suspension of sales prohibition of nickel-cadmium battery for power tools after 2010.

2. Sales prohibition of nickel-cadmium battery causes not only cost for existent power tool users but also additional environment problems. Therefore, the GOJ also requests the European Commission to permit battery manufacturers to supply nickel-cadmium battery for existent power tools.