

## Press Release No. 7/2010

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## **Fast, simple and competent: 1,400 producers already logged in Battery Act register**

### **Fines for latecomers likely after 1 March 2010**

**The register set up through the Act Concerning the Placing on the Market, Collection and Environmentally Compatible Waste Management of Batteries and Accumulators (*Batteriegesetz – BattG*) is off to a successful start. Since 1 December 2009 more than 1,400 producers representing more than 4,800 brand names have announced their presence on the market. Yet these numbers do not by far include all the producers affected by the new law. The Federal Environment Agency (UBA) urges latecomers to take quick steps to register at <https://www.battg-melderegister.umweltbundesamt.de/battg/authenticate.do>. Producers addressed in *BattG* may only place batteries on the German market upon prior announcement in the associated register. Failing such action, fines of up to 50,000 euros may be imposed. Prosecution of infractions commences 1 March 2010.**

The objective of the Battery Act which entered into force on 1 December 2009 is to ensure that battery producers assume responsibility for take-back and disposal of their products. The register creates the necessary transparency among producers and distributors and boosts the economy's self-control. UBA has implemented the *BattG* register as an online e-government solution that cuts red tape. Producers as defined by the law must announce their participation on the market through the UBA online portal, a procedure which is free of charge. Data is forwarded to UBA, stored electronically and managed in electronic files.

By instituting prosecution of infractions as of 1 March 2010, UBA is lending support to competitive schemes of product responsibility for batteries. This is to ensure that all responsible producers and distributors do in fact take on proper disposal of batteries and to effectively exclude any freeloaders.

Consumers may continue to return spent batteries and accumulators with their merchants, who will see to proper and environmentally friendly disposal. Collection bins for free collection of spent batteries are located wherever batteries are for sale. Used batteries may not be disposed of in household waste as their pollutants can burden the environment and health. Moreover, valuable raw materials would be lost.

For more information on the Battery Act and the associated register see  
<http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/abfallwirtschaft/battg/index.htm>.

Dessau-Roßlau, 26 February 2010