



Brussels, 5 December 2008  
RK/cb

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENT

### STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP ON "CAPACITY LABELLING OF BATTERIES"

#### PREPARATION OF A COMITOLGY DECISION

Directive 2006/66/EC on batteries and accumulators provides that:

- Member States shall ensure that the capacity of all portable and automotive batteries and accumulators is indicated on them by 26 September 2009.
- The capacity label shall be visible, legible and indelible and shall provide useful, easily understandable and comparable information for end-users.
- In line with Directive 2006/66/EC "*portable battery or accumulator*" means any battery, button cell, battery pack or accumulator that:
  - (a) is sealed; and
  - (b) can be hand-carried; and
  - (c) is neither an industrial battery or accumulator nor an automotive battery or accumulator.
- In line with Directive 2006/66/EC "*automotive battery or accumulator*" means any battery or accumulator used for automotive starter, lighting or ignition power.

Stakeholders are requested to give a reply/opinion on the below questions containing the elements for a future comitology decision on the capacity labelling of portable and automotive batteries and accumulators as set out in Article 21(2) of Directive 2006/66/EC.

#### **Questions:**

1. Do you agree with the approach suggested by the consultant Bio Intelligence ([http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/batteries/pdf/battery\\_report.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/batteries/pdf/battery_report.pdf)) to use the existing standards for the capacity measurement and to make some exceptions to the standards?

2. Do you agree with the labelling approach proposed by the consultant? Do you think this contains useful information for consumers?
  - a. How the label should express the capacity of the batteries (e.g. what units of measurement should be indicated on the label)?
  - b. What the label should look like (e.g. icons, letters, numbers)?
  - c. Where the label should be best placed: on the packaging or on the battery itself?
  - d. Where on the battery or on the packaging should the label be placed?
  - e. Where should the capacity label be placed in relation to the other battery labels?
3. Is the proposal on labelling options technically sound? Please justify.
4. How to compare the performance of the batteries?
5. Do you agree with exempting some categories of portable batteries from the capacity labelling requirements as proposed by the consultant? If so, which categories should be exempted?
6. Do you have any suggestions for an alternative approach?
7. The capacity labelling is limited to **portable** and **automotive** batteries and accumulators. Producers do not control the use of the batteries and accumulators they have placed on the market. Do you agree that clearly defined criteria which make a distinction between **portable** and **industrial** batteries and accumulators are necessary?

Ruska KELEVSKA