



Study on the calculation of recycling efficiencies and implementation of export article (Art. 15) of the Batteries Directive 2006/66/EC

Criteria for equivalency of recycling operations
outside the European Union

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Definition on equivalent conditions

The relevant wording related to sound evidence for equivalent conditions is laid down in article 15.2 of Directive 2006/66/EC:

“Waste batteries and accumulators exported out of the Community shall count towards the fulfilment of the obligations and efficiencies laid down in Annex III to this Directive only if there is sound evidence that the recycling operation took place under conditions equivalent to the requirements of this Directive.”



Relevant requirements of the Batteries Directive

What are the relevant requirements of Directive 2006/66/EC?

- Compliance with **BAT** (including the consideration of **local conditions**)
- Compliance with **minimum treatment requirements** set out in Annex III, Part A
- Compliance with **recycling efficiencies** set out in Annex III, Part B
- Compliance with **other Community legislation** related to conditions for recycling, treatment, transport and storage of waste in particular with regard to health and safety and waste management

→ a selection of information pieces (or criteria) is needed that enables adequately to provide sound evidence that for waste battery exports a recycling operation took place under conditions equivalent to these requirements



Possible criteria to provide sound evidence

- Evidence that applied technology is BAT (taking also account of protection of health and environment and of local conditions in third countries)
- Evidence that requirements of existing and approved guidelines are fulfilled (i.e. Technical Guidelines for the environmentally sound Management of waste batteries)
- Evidence that there is no danger to human health and the environment (information e.g. taken from plant permits)
- Evidence that minimum requirements are met
- Evidence that recycling efficiencies are fulfilled (reporting on input of waste batteries per type and corresponding output of products, materials and substances)
- Evidence that health & safety and waste management conditions for recycling, treatment, transport and storage are fulfilled



Making criteria operational

What could practically be provided?

- Statement of the recycler that the individual requirements are kept
- Certificate of an independent institution confirming that the individual requirements are kept
- Proof by documentation and reporting of the recycler or an independent institution that the individual requirements are kept; e.g.
 - documentation of operating conditions and requirements
 - documentation on input and output data of waste batteries
 - documentation of final treatment and fate of residues
 - documentation of procedures for transport, storage, treatment
 - measurement data on occupational exposure
 - measurement data of emissions to air, water and land



Assessment of criteria to provide sound evidence

- Credibility of the evidence
- Availability of the required information/data
- Effort required to provide the evidence

Conclusion with respect to all identified criteria for sound evidence:

- Statements are easy to provide, low credibility
- Proof in many cases difficult to provide due to lack of data and costly measurements
- Certification carried out by an independent institution may be the best solution to provide credible evidence at acceptable efforts

