



Information

For manufacturers/importers of batteries and battery-powered devices



Obligatory acceptance of spent portable batteries
in accordance with the German Battery Decree



Contents

1. Who is GRS Batterien?	Page 3
2. Who is the manufacturer/importer according to the German Battery Decree?	Page 3
3. Who should conclude a user contract with GRS Batterien?	Page 4
4. What are the main contents of the user contract?	Page 4
5. List of contributions	Page 6
6. Who is the trustee?	Page 6
7. What does GRS Batterien do for the users?	Page 6
8. What does GRS Batterien do for your customers?	Page 8
9. How is GRS Batterien financed?	Page 9
10. Must batteries be labelled?	Page 10
11. GRS Batterien: successful since 1998	Page 10
12. Duties of appliance/battery manufacturers	Page 11
13. Where can you find more information?	Page 12



1. Who is GRS Batterien?

The **Gemeinsames Rücknahmesystem Batterien** (GRS Batterien) foundation organises the collection, sorting and disposal of spent portable batteries in accordance with § 4 (2) of the German Battery Decree. GRS Batterien is a non-profit organisation.

It was founded by the battery manufacturers Gillette (Duracell), Philips, Panasonic, Energizer, Saft, Sanyo Energy, Sony, VARTA and the Zentralverband Elektrotechnik- und Elektronikindustrie (German Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers' Association), and approved by the Senate of the Freie und Hansestadt Hamburg in May 1998.

The German Battery Decree distributes the prescribed obligations among three groups of people. The first group in the collection chain is that of the end-users. They have to return spent portable batteries to the retailers or to the collection point provided by the public waste disposal services. The latter two groups are obligated to accept the returned spent batteries free of charge. Commercial end-users also have the possibility of coordinating collection points with the respective collection and recycling system. Manufacturers and importers of portable batteries are, in turn, obligated to take back these batteries from the retailers, public waste disposal services, and the commercial end-users free of charge and to dispose of them appropriately. **GRS Batterien relieves you of this collection and recycling duty.**

2. Who is the manufacturer/importer according to the German Battery Decree?

A manufacturer is anyone who manufactures batteries or has batteries manufactured in Germany, regardless of which brand name the batteries carry, if any. In the case of batteries without a brand name, the person who first puts them into circulation in Germany is deemed to be the manufacturer. This also applies to mail-order businesses. Also a manufacturer is anyone who manufactures or puts appliances with firmly incorporated batteries into the market.

An importer is anyone who imports batteries at any level, including mail order, into Germany and puts them into circulation there for the first time.



3. Who should conclude a user contract with GRS Batterien?

- a) Every manufacturer/importer of batteries
- b) Every company distributing its own brand of batteries
- c) Every company that imports batteries itself
- d) Every company that manufactures and/or imports appliances with batteries and/or puts them into circulation in Germany
- e) Every company that packages appliances together with batteries and puts them into circulation in Germany. It is necessary to distinguish between the battery supplier and the appliance manufacturer/importer in this case. As a rule, only the latter can state what quantities were sold in Germany. It is absolutely imperative that an agreement is reached between the supplier and the appliance manufacturer

All of the above points also apply to mail-order businesses.

4. What are the main contents of the user contract?

§ 1 Duties of the foundation

- Operation of a collection and recycling system for portable batteries in accordance with § 4 (2) of the German Battery Decree.

§ 2 General duties of the user

- Payment of the fee to the trustee for the batteries put into circulation in Germany;
- Making the data required pursuant to the German Battery Decree and user contract available to the trustee appointed by the foundation;
- Instructing consumers via the appliance user manuals only to dispose of power packs and lithium batteries which have been completely discharged or are protected against short-circuiting in the battery collection containers.



§ 3 Ascertainment of the fee

- The fee for batteries put into circulation in Germany must be paid in accordance with the list of contributions. It is updated regularly;
- The list of contributions is broken down into weight categories, type groups (primary/secondary) and systems;
- The prices are calculated on the basis of the current disposal costs and according to the expected number of batteries collected;
- The fee is calculated by multiplying the unit prices by the quantity of batteries brought into circulation;
- If particular services are provided by the users themselves (logistics, sorting, etc.), a reduced fee may be agreed;
- Flat-rate fees for batteries sold with appliances are possible in certain exceptional cases (unreasonably high efforts).

§ 4 Payment of fees; payment of interest

- Details of the data transmission to the trustee and payment flow.

§§ 5, 6, 7 Trustee

- Commissioning, activity and ordering.

§ 8 Recourse to outside manufacturers

- Passing on incurred costs to “free riders”.

§ 9 Term; notice of termination

§§ 10, 11, 12 Scope; applicable law, severability clause, transitional clause



5. List of contributions

GRS must disclose its services and the corresponding expenditures annually. The current list of contributions is attached to the user contract. Price discounts and rebates cannot be granted. The list of contributions will be adjusted according to the expenditures.

6. Who is the trustee?

The trustee is:

KPMG Deutsche Treuhand-Gesellschaft

Nikolaus-Dürkopp-Straße 2a

33602 Bielefeld

Germany

Tel.: +49 (0)521 96310

7. What does GRS Batterien do for the users?

Since 1 October 1998, GRS Batterien has guaranteed its users the transport of the spent portable batteries collected by retailers, commercial end-users and the public waste disposal services and subsequent sorting, recycling and disposal.

GRS Batterien thus guarantees:

- a) the nationwide initial set-up of retailers, commercial end-users, electric and electronic disassembly facilities and public waste disposal services with suitable collection and transport containers,
- b) collection of the portable batteries returned,



- c) to sort the batteries into the various electrochemical systems insofar as this is required for recycling or disposal of the batteries, and to separate UV-coded mercury-free zinc-carbon and alkaline-manganese batteries in automatically working sorting facilities,
- d) to transport the recycling and disposal facilities,
- e) appropriate recycling and disposal,
- f) extensive and verifiable documentation of the services for the regional authorities in accordance with § 10 of the German Battery Decree.

All manufacturers and importers as specified by the German Battery Decree are offered these services on the same terms via the user contract. GRS Batterien only takes back batteries, not appliances. Only batteries removed from appliances are accepted. In accordance with the German Battery Decree, appliances must be designed so that certain types of batteries can be easily removed by the end-user.

Furthermore, GRS Batterien does extensive public relations work in connection with the topic of battery disposal. Through regular press reports, journalistic programmes on television and radio, school projects, environmental campaigns and many other activities, consumers and partners of GRS Batterien, i.e. retailers, commercial end-users, battery manufacturers, importers and the public waste disposal services are informed and educated, raising the scheme's profile and popularity. The website www.grs-batterien.de supplies this information and more online.

The continuous optimisation of the sorting processes and the creation of new recycling opportunities are integral parts of the research and development projects.



8. What does GRS Batterien do for your customers?

In addition to the collection and transport containers, we provide users and their customers with advertising material such as stickers, counter displays or brochures, likewise free of charge. You'll also find detailed information in other GRS material and on the Internet at www.grs-batterien.de.

Please inform your sales force of this additional free service.

a) Service for retailers

If you continuously or temporarily have portable batteries in your sales mix or sell them via mail order, you must take back spent portable batteries from consumers, regardless of whether they originally purchased them from you or not. GRS Batterien now has a network of more than 140,000 collection points and thus blanket coverage in Germany.

We have made the following agreement with the trade associations:

GRS Batterien will provide every seller who has portable batteries in his sales mix with plastic collection boxes (BattBox) as initial set-up free of charge. The small box holds approximately 5 kg. In addition, these companies will also receive a transport carton which holds approximately 30 kg. The filled cartons are picked up upon request and exchanged for empty ones, free of charge. The carton is designed so that it can also be used for collection. The carton is already marked with all instructions required for the point of sale in accordance with the German Battery Decree.

Should a retailer collect less than 30 kg of spent batteries per year, he can deposit the batteries at the nearest local community collection point (according to the German Battery Decree, municipalities must also take back batteries) from small businesses.

b) Service for commercial and/or industrial end-users/disassembly facilities

GRS Batterien likewise equips commercial and/or industrial end-users with collection and transport containers free of charge. The companies can use either the plastic collection boxes and transport cartons (see above), or plastic drums holding 60 or 120 litres. All transport containers will be exchanged for empty ones upon request.



c) Service for the public waste disposal services

Public waste disposal services must accept spent portable batteries from end-users and from small businesses without charge. GRS Batterien also supplies all public waste disposal services with containers for this purpose free of charge. In addition, the public waste disposal services collect spent batteries in many public buildings in BattBoxes or transport cartons.

You can order advertising material, the initial set-up or the exchange of the full containers via the following **service numbers**:

GRS service telephone:	01805 805 030	Germany only
GRS service fax:	01805 805 031	Germany only
Via the Internet:	www.grs-batterien.de	
Via e-mail:	info@grs-batterien.de	

9. How is GRS Batterien financed?

Over 140,000 points of sale and more than 1,300 collection points provided by the public waste disposal services and more than 30,000 industrial end-users must be supplied with collection boxes and regularly with new 30 kg cartons or containers as well. This doesn't cost the customers anything, but GRS Batterien incurs considerable costs. Costs for logistics, sorting, the subsequent recycling and disposal as well as expenditures for public relations and administrative work are also incurred. GRS Batterien currently has total expenditures of roughly € 15 million per year. Manufacturers/importers who use the services of GRS Batterien conclude a user contract with GRS Batterien. The users then pay a fee to the trustee for the batteries which they put into circulation in Germany. The fee is based on the list of contributions, which is divided according to weight categories and battery systems and which reflects the total expenditures of GRS Batterien. Additional costs or licence fees are not incurred. GRS Batterien receives only cumulative figures for the costs and the batteries put into circulation from the trustee.

GRS Batterien is a non-profit organisation. The list of contributions is adjusted according to the expenditures.



10. Must batteries be labelled?

In accordance with the German Battery Decree, all batteries containing harmful substances must be labelled as such (with the crossed-out dustbin and the chemical symbol for lead, cadmium or mercury). As a rule, this includes all batteries which contain mercury, cadmium or lead. This also includes, for example, button cells with a mercury content of more than 0.0005%, or 5 ppm, based on the total weight of the cell. In the case of single button cells, the packaging must be marked. In the case of batteries made up of button cells, the batteries themselves must be marked. No further labelling is stipulated. We recommend that the instruction manuals for battery-operated appliances contain the remark that the appliance contains batteries and that batteries do not belong in household waste. The GRS logo may be used but is not required.

11. GRS Batterien: successful since 1998

Collection of and recycling proportion of spent batteries and accumulators increased

Since commencing operations in October 1998, GRS Batterien has not only increased collected quantities to over 13,000 t, it has also raised the proportion of batteries and accumulators recycled to over 88%.

This was achieved not least by dynamic communication with end-users, the retailers, industry and municipalities. Nearly 290 million contacts were generated in 2006 from the media alone.

Since 2000 effective contributions 15% under list contributions

GRS Batterien has also been economically successful. Despite the continuous increase in the number of batteries collected and the proportion recycled, it has been possible to maintain the budgeting framework. As a non-profit organisation, GRS Batterien repays surplus funds to users. If the dividends from 2000 to 2006 are taken into consideration, the disposal cost contributions for GRS Batterien users were effectively 15% under the price stated in the list of contributions.

12. Duties of appliance/battery manufacturers

According to the German Battery Decree of 9 July, 2001

Appliances with ... batteries	Putting into circulation	Obligatory collection of appliances**	Obligatory collection of battery	Obligatory return for end-user	Duty to inform by return	Obligatory marking for batteries
included, easily removable, other	Free, if collection ensured § 3 German Battery Decree	No	Yes (common or individual system) § 4 German Battery Decree	Yes, for the batteries § 7 German Battery Decree	Yes, distributor (also mail-order business) § 12 German Battery Decree	No § 11 German Battery Decree
firmly incorporated, other	Free, if collection ensured § 3 German Battery Decree	No	Yes (common or individual system) § 4 German Battery Decree	Yes, for the batteries § 7 German Battery Decree	Yes, distributor (also mail-order business) § 12 German Battery Decree	No § 11 German Battery Decree
easily removable, containing hazardous substances	Free, if collection ensured* § 3 German Battery Decree	No	Yes (common or individual system) § 4 German Battery Decree	Yes, for the batteries § 7 German Battery Decree	Yes, point of sale (also mail-order business) § 12 German Battery Decree	Yes, battery manufacturer § 11 German Battery Decree
firmly incorporated, containing hazardous substances	Only according to Appendix 2 § 14 German Battery Decree*	Yes, distributor, appliance manufacturer § 14 German Battery Decree	Yes, distributor, appliance manufacturer § 14 German Battery Decree	Yes, for the appliance § 14 German Battery Decree	Yes, appliance manufacturer in accompanying information § 14 German Battery Decree	Yes, battery manufacturer § 11 German Battery Decree

* Ban on circulating batteries or batteries firmly incorporated into devices with a mercury content over 0.0005% of their weight. Button cells and batteries built of button cells with a mercury content of maximum 2% of their weight are exempted from this ban.

** Obligatory acceptance according to German version of WEEE of 16 March 2005



13. Where can you find more information?

Should you have any other questions, please contact us personally at:

Tel.: **+49 (0)40 2377 8930** (Mr Lührsen),

E-mail: **LUEHRSEN@GRS-BATTERIEN.DE**

Tel.: **+49 (0)40 2377 8920** (Dr Fricke),

E-mail: **FRICKE@GRS-BATTERIEN.DE**

or by fax at **+49 (0)40 237 787**.

You will find additional information and all the relevant documents in electronic form in both German and English on our website: www.grs-batterien.de

Best regards,
Gemeinsames Rücknahmesystem Batterien

Dr Jürgen Fricke

Günter Lührsen