

AIBOLG
Agencies' and Industry Batteries Operational Liaison Group
6th October 2010
Hosted by Environment Agency
Teleconference

Attendees

Industry: R Chaddock, Alwyn Hines, M Green, G Parkin, M Wolle.

EA: S Stocks, B Mead, C Chambers, J Ashcroft

SEPA: N Chalamanda

NIEA: Gwyneth Evans, Ruairi McCann

1. Introductions.

2. Metrics and Regulators Activity.

2.1 UK Data

Since last publication on the 1st September there has been 1 resubmission for the 2009 data. This has increased the '2009 Batteries Placed on the Market' by 200 tonnes to a total of 47,131 tonnes.

There have also been two resubmissions to the 2010 data, increasing '2010 Batteries Placed on the Market' by 85 tonnes to give a YTD total of 18,448 tonnes.

There has been no change in the Batteries Collected, Delivered, & Received data, with the 'Scheme's Delivered' and the 'ABTO/ABE's Received' tonnages matching.

The total tonnage of waste batteries reported as collected was 2320T, just short of 50% of the obligation at the mid-point of the compliance year. However the amount reported as delivered to ABTO/ABE is only 1609T which is a difference of 711T. This difference is accounted for by one scheme and we have discussed this with them and hopefully this will be addressed shortly.

2.2 EA Activity & Forward Look

We have accessed the Scheme's 2011/12/13 Operational Plans. Following this assessment it has been decided that all six Scheme's will have continuing approval for 2011.

We have conducted 3 Scheme audits and we are intending to carry out the other three before December.

We are now in the process of assessing the ABTO/ABE's applications for 2011.

We are preparing for the Q3 submission of data on the 31/10/2010 and as we are approaching the end of the regulatory year we are increasing our focus on Desktop monitoring and evidence tracking.

2.3 SEPA Activity & Forward Look

SEPA have only 1 ABTO who as yet have not reprocessed any batteries. SEPA are at the moment assessing their application to be ABTO for 2011

2.4 NIEA Activity & Forward Look

NIEA have one ABE registered with them and are in the process of planning the site audit for this year.

We are assessing their application for 2011 approval at the moment.

We have carried out 9 unregistered Battery Freerider visits and this has resulted in bringing 1 company into compliance so far. One way these freeriders have been identified is by comparing the WEEE and Batteries registers. We are planning to continue with further freerider work.

3. Regulatory and Technical Issues.

3.1 Batteries Meeting Issues

- *“5.1.5-Health and safety issues when collecting/storing batteries at collection points”* - Michael questioned whether there was any further feedback on this item yet. – Bob stated that he had discussed this with Defra and expressed the concerns raised at the meeting in that Defra should encourage HSE to address this issue and if this could not be done then Defra may wish to address this themselves.
- *“6.2-Send out list of approved organisations for auditors”* - Michael questioned whether this was the complete list of Approved Independent Auditors, or whether there were others – Bob said he would look into this

Action: Expand these comments to provide a clearer message, following feedback from Bob **Jon Ashcroft**

- *“5.1.13 Do the Agencies require independent audit reports from small ABTOs and ABEs”* - Mark asked whether we were still on track to confirm whether Small ABTO/ABEs have to commission third party audits (Independent Audit Reports) by the end of October - Bob assured him that we were and in fact stated that it would hopefully be ready to clarify this by the end of the week and would be distributed the following week.

Action: Distribute The IAR guidance by the 15th October

Bob Mead

3.2 New Technical & Regulatory Issues

No Further issues raised.

4. Industry Feedback on Batteries Meeting 02/09/10.

4.1 What went well.

In general it was felt the day had gone well, in particular it was felt that it was useful to have everybody involved with the batteries regime together in one room so that everyone could see the full picture of both the EA's responsibilities and activity together with the roles of the different industry sectors.

4.2 What didn't work so well.

A number of people felt it would have been useful to have breakout sessions for Schemes, ABTOs and ABEs. This would encourage people to air their views more freely, together with the EA being able to focus the message to the differing customer types.

4.3 Recommendations for future liaisons

Mark raised whether the location of the next could be more central as a high proportion of the attendees had particularly long journeys.

A similar thought was raised by Alwyn, as to whether we could make it a two day event one for batteries and one for WEEE as virtually everyone involved in the Batteries regime is also involved in WEEE (particularly at a scheme level). This would mean less travelling as there would be only one journey with an overnight stay.

This prompted a further conversation, as to whether there were sufficient issues arising within the Batteries regime to support the need for a full day event.

5. Future AIBOLG meeting dates.

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held at G&P Batteries, Wednesbury on the 2nd February 2011

However it was decided that there would be further consultation before then to ensure sufficient agenda items to warrant a face to face meeting.

Action: Seek feedback from members in early January, on agenda items to ensure need for meeting in February
Jon Ashcroft

6. AOB

Questions were raised as to whether there was any further news, since the meeting about guidance on the Recycling Efficiencies and the HSE executive referral - Bob stated that no further progress had been made on either at this stage.

Bob stated that a charges consultation had been launched on the 24th September and would continue until the 17th December 2010. This includes proposals for charging schemes for both the WEEE and Batteries regimes. The main changes being within the Batteries regime, where it is proposed that the scheme subsistence charge should be reduced. If agreed, the fixed element would drop from £118,000 to £90,000 and the variable element would drop from £680 to £600/scheme member.

Action: Attach link to AIBOLG notes distribution, to the Batteries and WEEE consultations pages on the EA website.
Jon Ashcroft

Bob also asked for assistance from the AIBOLG members who were ABTOs and ABEs. Following a request made at the meeting he would be producing guidance on how to distinguish 'waste portable' from 'waste industrial' batteries and would like to use the AIBOLG members as a sounding board before publishing wider.

Action: When complete, distribute draft guidance on distinguishing waste Battery types to relevant AIBOLG members
Bob Mead

Action: Provide feedback to Bob on the above guidance within two weeks of receipt.
Mark Wolle/Rob Chaddock/ Michael Greene