

# THE Accumulator

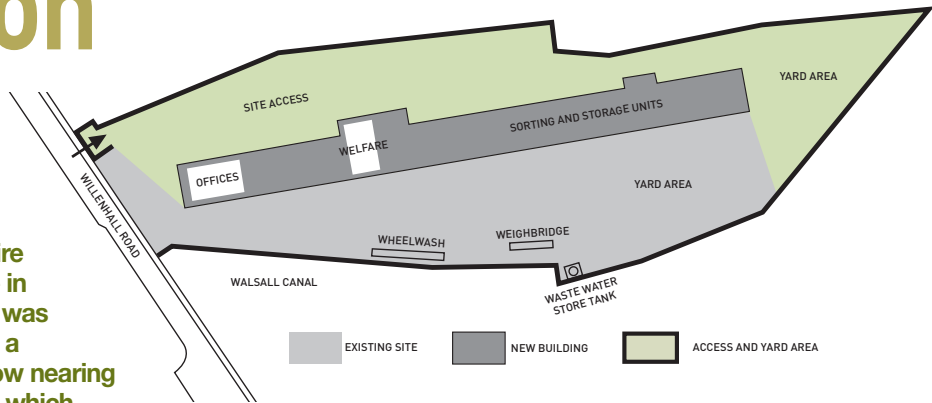
NEWS from G & P Batteries Limited

## Site Expansion for G & P

It is now more than two years since a dramatic fire destroyed a major part of the facilities at our site in Darlaston. Rather than a straight rebuild of what was destroyed, we took the opportunity to undertake a thorough review of our operations and we are now nearing the end of a major site development programme which has effectively doubled the operational area of the company. This has involved the purchase of 8,400sq. m. of additional land and buildings adjacent to our existing warehouse and yard space.

The investment means that the site will be able to operate a one-way system for all heavy goods traffic, which will greatly assist the efficiency and safety of our operation as well as freeing up space for storage of battery banks, vehicles and other necessary equipment. It also means that there is adequate storage space for waste batteries that have been sorted, whilst optimum quantities are accumulated before being sent for recycling.

All office staff are housed in new, purpose built facilities, which incorporates spacious accommodation for the sales, transport, accounts and administration teams as well as providing much welcomed meeting room facilities.



The site operations team, which perhaps endured the longest upheaval from the devastation of the fire, spending the winter of 2008/9 braving the elements, are finally getting back to a more normal working environment. There is now plenty of room for sorting and storage. We have two sorting lines and have introduced a novel colour coding system for easy identification of the various battery chemistries.

Additionally, a dedicated welfare block, incorporating changing rooms, showers and staff breakout area means that everyone on site can take a break from their work station in decent surroundings. Staff have a dedicated parking area and there are plans to landscape an area at the front of the site for recreational use.

Michael Green, G & P's Managing Director said: "This has been a long and time consuming process, but we can now see a clear path to finalising what will be a state of the art site of which we can be truly proud."

## Gearing Up for Major Growth

The UK Waste Battery Regulations are forcing the pace for waste portable battery collection and recycling in the UK and G & P is anticipating a steady growth in business.

With a 2012 collection target of 25% against a current rate of less than 3% (2009 estimate) the UK has a steep hill to climb to meet its obligations.

There is still some confusion surrounding the regulations and G & P has emerged as a 'voice of reason' providing impartial advice for those affected by the regulations and as the supplier of choice when it comes to compliant waste battery collection and recycling.

"We've been planning for this for years, so we already have the necessary infrastructure, protocols and compliance trails required by the regulations," explained Michael Green. "The only change we'll need to accommodate is the expected increase in volume, which our improved facilities are well placed to meet."

Part of G & P's new premises



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# Help at hand in understanding the Regulations

G & P Batteries has compiled a set of **Guidance Notes to help waste battery producers through the minefield of the Waste Battery Regulations.**

The regulations, which came into force on 6th May 2009, have generated much discussion amongst battery producers, potential Compliance Schemes and the waste industry, and there are still issues requiring clarification even though collection is getting underway in earnest.

With continuing uncertainty around, G & P felt that some simple, straightforward and above all, impartial, guidance would be of use to those who sell new batteries as well as those who generate waste batteries.

“The regulations themselves are long and fairly complex so we have summarised what we believe to be the main issues in our guidance,” explained G & P’s Managing Director, Michael Green. “In particular it clarifies certain aspects about who must join a compliance scheme and who is exempt and also explains how G & P can help.”

G & P has a long track record in collecting and recycling all kinds of waste batteries, including automotive, industrial and portable. Over recent years, the company has collected and recycled the vast majority of waste portable batteries arising in the UK.

To look at G & P’s Guidance Notes, please visit G & P’s website at [www.g-pbatt.co.uk](http://www.g-pbatt.co.uk) and follow the links to ‘downloads’ or contact our sales office on **0121 568 3200**.

## Under the Regulations Waste Batteries have been categorised into three groups:



### Automotive Batteries



### Industrial Batteries



### Portable Batteries

## New vans for G & P

**G & P Batteries has taken delivery of five new drop-side vans as part of its plans for increased portable battery collections occurring as a result of new waste battery regulations.**

The vehicles are replacing existing stock in the G & P fleet and the company has selected the Iveco daily 35C 12 model for its flexibility. With a 3.5 tonne gross capacity, these drop-side vans will be the workhorses for portable battery collections as they are ideal for undertaking multiple small collections with maximum cost effectiveness and increased carbon efficiency.



### Automotive and Industrial

There are no specific collection targets for Automotive and Industrial batteries. However, both the incineration and land filling of these batteries is prohibited, and therefore by inference, there is a collection target of 100%. Historically the UK has a good track record - over 90% - in recycling these batteries.

### Portable Batteries

**The European Batteries Directive sets 2 distinct collection targets:-  
25% to be collected by 2012  
45% to be collected by 2016**

However, in its local legislation, the UK has introduced a number of interim targets to help achieve the necessary collected volume. These currently are:-

2010	10%	
2011	18%	
<b>2012</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>European Target 1</b>
2013	30%	
2014	35%	
2015	40%	
<b>2016</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>European Target 2</b>

### Definition of a portable battery

Defining what is a portable battery and what is an industrial battery is one aspect of the regulations which continues to cause the most uncertainty. As a guide, G & P has devised the following ‘rule-of-thumb’ definition: a portable battery is one that is small, can be hand-carried and is designed to be changed by the user of the equipment. For the full legal definition please refer to the regulations or contact G & P.