Do You Need a California Battery Fee Account?

You are identified as a business that may sell replacement lead-acid batteries and you may be required to register for a California battery fee account to comply with the new law.

A replacement lead-acid battery includes a new battery sold at retail to replace the battery that originally came with the vehicle, equipment, watercraft, or aircraft.

A lead-acid battery means a battery that:

- Is composed primarily of both lead and sulfuric acid (liquid, solid, or gel),
- Weighs over five kilograms (about 11 pounds),
- Has a capacity of six or more volts, and
- Is used to start, operate, or power a vehicle, equipment, watercraft, or aircraft or is used as auxiliary power in a vehicle or aircraft. (See Health and Safety Code (HSC) section 25215.1)

As of April 1, 2017, the Lead-Acid Battery Recycling Act of 2016 (HSC sections 25215 – 25215.75) requires all dealers (retailers) who sell replacement lead-acid batteries in California to register with the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA). Manufacturers who make retail sales of lead-acid batteries directly to consumers in California must also register with the CDTFA.

If you sell replacement lead-acid batteries in California, you must register for a California battery fee account. You may register on our website at www.cdtfa.ca.gov by using your current User ID and password. View our Lead-Acid Battery Fees Guide on our website, for more information about the fee and how to register.

If you have any questions, contact our Customer Service Center at 1-800-400-7115 (TTY:711) and select the option for Special Taxes and Fees. Customer service representatives are available weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Pacific time), except state holidays.