

make it – sell it – recycle it

New rules for producers of electrical & electronic equipment

Are you ready for the WEEE Regulations?

What's going to happen?

From January 2007 you will have new regulations to tackle the growing amount of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). These WEEE Regulations will apply to all companies who import, manufacture or re-brand electrical equipment in the UK. You will have to finance the treatment, recovery and disposal of WEEE.

These regulations also affect everyone who uses, sells, treats or disposes of WEEE. We recommend you read the guidance available from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) so you become familiar with the regulations and your obligations.

Every year the UK throws away around 2 million tonnes of WEEE. It is one of the fastest growing waste streams in the UK and the EU. In 2003, the EU adopted the WEEE Directive to deal with this waste. More waste will be collected for treatment and recovery and less will go to landfill.

What you need to do

Register with a compliance scheme

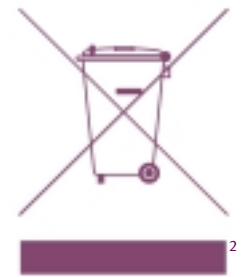
Every company in the UK that manufactures, imports or re-brands electrical and electronic equipment (known as EEE¹) is called a producer and will need to join an approved producer compliance scheme by **15 March 2007**. To do this you will need to pay a registration fee to the scheme and supply data on how much electrical and electronic equipment you place on the market each calendar year. You also need to say whether you supplied the equipment for household or business use. You will get a WEEE producer registration number that you will need to give to anyone who distributes or sells your equipment.

Treatment, recovery and disposal

You will need to finance the costs associated with the treatment, recovery and disposal of hazardous WEEE from **1 April 2007** and all WEEE from **1 July 2007**. There are separate requirements if you supply non-household electronic and electrical equipment, for example to businesses. Your compliance scheme will be able to advise you further on how to do this. DTI's guidance will also explain your responsibilities.

Marking your products

You will need to mark all new electrical products you place on the market **from 1 April 2007** with the crossed out wheeled bin symbol (image) and a producer identification mark. You will already be doing this if you supply products to other European states.



Current status of regulations

The dates in this fact sheet are based on draft regulations the DTI published in July 2006. Subject to the results of the consultation on the draft regulations, it's likely the WEEE Directive will be turned into UK law in January 2007. The dates given here will be finalised then. Until these regulations come into force, producers of EEE in the United Kingdom are not under any obligations. However, we recommend that you plan ahead as there is likely to be only a short time between regulations coming into force and the start of your obligations.

The Government and devolved administrations will publish guidance on the WEEE regulations. This will help you understand what you need to do. Draft guidance is currently available from the DTI's website.

What you need to do next

- Start collecting data on the EEE you placed on the market during 2006 so you have this information ready.
- Decide which compliance scheme to join. You can search the Internet for potential schemes that may apply to us for approval and may be looking to recruit members. Use the search term, "*WEEE Compliance Scheme*". Approved compliance schemes will start operating from February 2007 and we will publish a list of them.
- You could also run your own scheme.

Where to find out more

The Department of Trade and Industry has lots of up-to-date and in-depth information on its website: www.dti.gov.uk/innovation/sustainability/weee/page30269.html

You can also get more information on the regulations from our website: www.environment-agency.gov.uk/weee

There are links to frequently asked questions and a list of events, seminars and workshops you could attend to find out more.

There is also information on NetRegs website: www.netregs.gov.uk

You can phone us: **08708 506 506**

or email us: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

¹ The regulations apply to the following EEE: household appliances, IT and telecommunications equipment, consumer equipment, lighting, tools, toys, leisure and sports equipment, monitoring and control instruments and automatic dispensers. Some exclusions apply.

² Usage of this logo is subject to BS EN 50419