

dti

Debra Huntington
Assistant Director
WEEE Implementation

WEEE Directive - Summary

- Producer Responsibility Directive to address a priority waste stream;
- Gives responsibility for the collection, treatment and reprocessing of WEEE to producers;
- Distributors have obligations to provide facilities for consumers to dispose of their electrical products;
- Directive emphasises the need to prioritise re-use of products.

The UK regulations will:

- Place direct obligations for collection treatment and reprocessing on Producers based on market share and level of WEEE arising;
- An annual compliance period – ie 1 January – 31 December (except first period in 2007);
- An evidence based system of reporting – both for compliance and UK reporting to the Commission;
- Require distributors to provide appropriate facilities for consumers.

Consultation Key Proposals

- A national Distributor Take-back Scheme (DTS) to establish a network of Designated Collection Facilities (DCFs) as an alternative to in store take back (operator still to be announced);
- All producers to join a collective compliance scheme or establish a private compliance scheme to meet their own needs;
- Authorised Treatment Facilities (permitted under separate DEFRA Regulations due to be laid at the same time);
- A system of evidence to show how much WEEE has been collected by producers and that it has been treated and reprocessed to the required standards;
- Accreditation of reprocessing facilities;
- An end of year settlement process to ensure producers meet their obligations – “The Exchange”.

Consultation Questions

- Do the proposals in the consultation package correctly implement the Directive?
 - Are we placing the obligations in the right place?
 - Are the proposal over complicated?
 - Where can we make the processes simpler without moving away from the overall approach?

Consultation Questions

- If you are a small business, what burdens are associated with the introduction of the Regulations and how can these be mitigated?
 - There are no exemptions in the regulations for small businesses;
 - EA have a charging structure which reflects the work they need to do not size of the business
 - Compliance Scheme approval criteria includes sliding membership scales
 - Distributor Take-back Scheme will need to recognise different size of retailers for membership fees
- Is there anything else of a practical nature we can do?

Are the criteria for Producer Compliance Schemes correct?

- Does the criteria for approval give sufficient confidence to producers as members?
- Are the criteria strong enough to address some of the needs of small businesses?
- Will the criteria ensure producer compliance schemes work together on some issues – for example the allocation process?
- Are the criteria to cancel approval strong enough?

What improvements can be made to the Evidence and Trading System

- Are we right in capping the levels of over or under collection or the level of evidence which can be traded via the Exchange – if so is the level correct?
- Can the evidence system be simplified or strengthened to ensure all obligations are met?
- Who is best place to operate the “Exchange”?

What do you think of the arrangements for Non-household WEEE?

- Are there any difficulties which have been overlooked?
- What can we do practically to avoid producers passing the responsibility to the end-user (ie through their contracts etc)?
- Should business to business obligations be discharged directly by the company or should it be mandatory to join/establish a Compliance Scheme? (NB this would be B2B only)

Other Issues to be addressed

- Enforcement – how can free-riders be identified? What does the industry think would be the most appropriate method?
- Partial implementation period – how the costs will be divided and caps places on local authorities
- Visible Fee/Recycling Charge
- Re-use – how can we encourage re-use and active engagement with “responsible” re-use and refurbish organisations

Next Steps

- Consultation will close on the 17 October
 - If you have not yet responded please do so - quickly!
- Engagement with stakeholders will continue
- Regulations will be laid before Parliament early December 2006 and will come into effect early 2007
- Guidance will be revisited and revised as a result of the consultation and the discussion with stakeholders on the practical details

Contact

Responses to the Consultation should be sent to:

WEEE@dti.gsi.gov.uk

Contacts

Tony Pedrotti

Director – WEEE implementation

Tony.Pedrotti@dti.gsi.gov.uk

Debra Huntington

Assistant Director – WEEE Implementation

Policy Lead

Debra.Huntington@dti.gsi.gov.uk