

WEEE REGULATIONS 2006 – A summary

Background

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) is the fastest growing waste stream in Europe and a EU wide Directive was agreed in 2002.

The EU is concerned about:-

- (i) Reducing waste going into landfill.
- (ii) Restricting hazardous components going into landfill or other non environmentally sound disposal routes (WEEE contains various hazardous components)
- (iii) Waste of resources which can be recycled for use by a re-processor to manufacture other goods.

A decision was made to legislate for the recycling of WEEE with the following key points:-

- (i) All separately collected WEEE must be recycled to specific levels of Recovery. IE cooling appliances 80%.
- (ii) All hazardous components must be removed for environmentally sound disposal
- (iii) The Producer will pay. In this context the producer is not the person holding the waste but the person who manufactures or imports the equipment and then puts it onto the UK market. *Put on the market means*
'sold, leased, loaned, rented or given away'.

This legislation was passed by the UK Parliament on 12th December 2006 and is effective from 1st July 2007.

Scope

The WEEE regs covers or electrically powered products that are dependant on electrical power to work properly within a voltage range up to 1,000 volts AC or 1,500 volts DC. If the product is powered by electricity only for control or support functions it may be out of scope.

Items that are part of another type of equipment are not covered eg car radios.

Large scale industrial (machine or system consisting of a combination of components installed by professionals , each of which is designed or manufactured and intended for use only in fixed installations are exempt.

Power generating equipment (petrol /diesel powered) is not in scope .

If you have any doubts about the scope of any of your equipment it may be appropriate to take legal advice.

Producer Obligations

Producers will have different obligations dependant on the new equipment is put on the market for private households (B2C business to customer) or for users other than private households (B2B – business to business).

All Producers have the following obligations:-

- (i) Register with an approved WEEE Compliance Scheme.
- (ii) Provide information on the tonnage by category of New Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) put on the market.
- (iii) Mark all new EEE put on the market with the 'crossed out wheeled bin symbol'
- (iv) Mark all new EEE with a producer identification mark and a date mark- a copy of this to be supplied to your compliance scheme on joining.
- (v) Make their unique producer number available to customers to whom EEE is supplied (this will be supplied to you by your compliance scheme)
- (vi) Provide information quarterly on re-use, treatment (recycling) and of new EEE put on the market.

Producers are obliged to pay for the collection, treatment, recycling and environmentally sound disposal of their own product put on the market after 13th August 2005 (relevant WEEE). The largest potential cost for Longville is the transport charges.

Producer are also obliged to take back on a like for like basis a similar product that has been put on the market before 13th August 2005 (historic WEEE) when supplying a similar new product. This may mean the product you take back is another manufacturer. The producer will pay for the collection, treatment, recycling and environmentally sound disposal of this historic WEEE. The obligations on you do not mean that you have to pay for all the equipment that you put on the market before 13th August 2005 – only where you supply a replacement. If the equipment is not being replaced the onus for the recycling of historic WEEE falls onto the end user.

Components are not WEEE – the whole working piece of electrical equipment is WEEE. Any components replaced in equipment that you own or are servicing / repairing will not be WEEE and it will need to be disposed of in an environmentally sound manner.

All WEEE must be recycled at an AATF (Approved Authorised Treatment Facility) who must supply evidence to your compliance scheme that they have both received the equipment and recovered recyclates from your equipment to meet the regulation requirements.

The tonnage you put on the market bears no relationship to your treatment costs.