

An Overview of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations 2013

Introduction

The UK WEEE Regulations were first introduced in 2007 with the aim of reducing the amount of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) going to landfill. The WEEE Regulations were updated in 2013 to revoke the 2006 regulations, incorporating the recast Directive 2012/19/EU and aspects arising from the Red Tape Challenge government initiative. These regulations came into force on 1 January 2014.

Who is affected?

You will be affected if you:

- Import EEE and place it onto the UK market
- Manufacture EEE and place it onto the UK market
- Sell own brand EEE products
- Sell or supply (including free of charge) EEE to household or business consumers

What do you need to do?

Producers

If you import, manufacture or brand EEE then you are classed as a **producer**. If you are based in a Member State other than the UK and place EEE onto the UK market you are also a producer (see also Authorised Representatives section). There are **two** different types of producer:

1. Business to consumer (**B2C**) – producers of EEE which can be used by households, or by both households as well as business users. The latter is known as “dual use” EEE.
2. Business to business (**B2B**) – producers of EEE intended for users other than private households i.e. business use. This excludes “dual use” EEE.

Producers who place 5 tonnes or more of EEE onto the market:

For producers who placed 5 tonnes or more of EEE onto the market in the previous compliance period.

B2C producers must:

- Register with a compliance scheme, such as Valpak
- Complete a quarterly data submission detailing the amount of EEE they have placed onto the market
- Finance the collection, recovery and environmentally sound treatment and disposal of their market share of WEEE (this is done through their compliance scheme)

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- Adhere to labeling requirements

B2B producers must:

- Register with a compliance scheme, such as Valpak
- Complete an annual data submission detailing the amount of EEE they have placed onto the market
- Finance the collection, recovery and environmentally sound treatment and disposal of:
 - WEEE from EEE they placed on the market on or after 13 August 2005; and
 - historic WEEE (EEE placed onto the market before 13 August 2005) when the producer is supplying new EEE that is intended to replace the historic WEEE and is of equivalent type or fulfils the same function
- Adhere to labelling requirements

Producers who place less than 5 tonnes of EEE onto the market:

For producers who placed less than 5 tonnes of EEE onto the market in the previous compliance period.

B2C producers must:

- Register directly with the relevant Agency or using the services of a compliance scheme, such as Valpak
- Complete an annual data submission detailing the amount of EEE they have placed onto the market
- Adhere to labelling requirements

B2B producers must:

- Register directly with the relevant Agency or using the services of a compliance scheme, such as Valpak
- Complete an annual data submission detailing the amount of EEE they have placed onto the market
- Finance the collection, recovery and environmentally sound treatment and disposal of:
 - WEEE from EEE they placed on the market on or after 13 August 2005; and
 - historic WEEE (EEE placed onto the market before 13 August 2005) when the producer is supplying new EEE that is intended to replace the historic WEEE and is of equivalent type or fulfils the same function
- Adhere to labelling requirements

Authorised Representatives

A producer which places EEE onto the market in an EU Member State must comply with the regulations under the Directive in that country.

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A producer, which is situated in an EU Member State other than the UK, who places over 5 tonnes of EEE onto the market in the UK must appoint an authorised representative or register with a compliance scheme, such as Valpak, in the UK to fulfil their obligations. A foreign producer who places under 5 tonnes of EEE onto the market in the UK must appoint an authorised representative (AR) but can then register via the AR directly with the Environment Agency to fulfil their obligations.

Information

A producer of EEE must provide, within one year of new EEE being placed on the market, information regarding the reuse and treatment of that EEE. The information should be in the format of:

- Manuals; or
- Electronic media

And must include:

- Components and materials of the EEE
- Location of any dangerous substances and mixtures in the EEE

Distributors

If you sell or supply EEE to private households (therefore B2C or “dual use” EEE) then you are classed as a **distributor**. Distributors must:

- Provide information to consumers about:
 - Their role in recycling and recovery
 - Environmental impacts of hazardous substances found in WEEE
 - Importance of separating WEEE from other waste streams
 - Meaning of the ‘crossed out wheeled bin symbol’
- Offer one for one, like for like take back in store for all types of EEE that they sell **or**
- For B2C EEE, join the Distributor Take back Scheme (DTS) and make a financial contribution which will be used to help set up WEEE collection facilities throughout the UK
- Distributors with an EEE sales area of 400m² or more must provide free of charge in-store take back of very small WEEE (with dimensions of less than 25cm) **or**
- For B2C EEE, join the Distributor Take back Scheme (DTS) and make a financial contribution which will be used to help set up WEEE collection facilities throughout the UK

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Useful Links

[The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013](#)

[The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment \(Charges\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2014](#)

[The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment \(Amendment\) Regulations 2014](#)

[The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment \(Amendment\) Regulations 2015](#)

[The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment \(Amendment\) Regulations 2018](#)

[Directive 2012/19/EU on waste electrical and electronic equipment \(WEEE\)](#)

(The link to the Directive directs you to the page on Eur Lex, however to ensure that you fulfil all requirements please ensure you also take account of the “Relationship between documents” section and in particular the “Amended by” sub-section which can be found by ensuring you are using the “Document information” tab (at the top of the page) and scrolling down.)

Further Guidance

Further information can be found [here](#). More information about the Distributor Take back Scheme can be found [here](#) and guidance on correctly identifying B2C and B2B EEE can be found [here](#).

Contact Us

We offer a range of services to help organisations with WEEE compliance. For more information please call **03450 682 572** or email us at info@valpak.co.uk

Last updated November 2018

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