

# make it – sell it – recycle it

## New rules for exporters of electrical & electronic equipment

### The Regulations

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 Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive to deal with this waste. The WEEE Regulations<sup>1</sup> to support this Directive in the UK came into force on 2 January 2007. More waste will be collected for treatment and recovery and less will go to landfill.

All separately collected WEEE must be treated and recycled to the standards set out in the regulations. Exporters can only issue evidence of WEEE treatment or recovery overseas if they have been approved by the Environment Agency<sup>2</sup>.

We recommend that you read the regulations and guidance from the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) to understand what is required of an approved exporter.

### What you need to know

Producer compliance schemes collect WEEE on behalf of producers. These compliance schemes need to show evidence of the treatment and recovery of WEEE, as do any producers who haven't signed up to a compliance scheme. This is to prove they have met their obligations under the WEEE Regulations.

Compliance schemes that use exporters to organise the treatment and recovery of WEEE abroad will therefore only do so if those exporters are able to issue evidence. In order to do this, you will need approval from us. If granted, the approval will last for one compliance period which starts on 1 January and finishes on 31 December each year. After this you will have to apply again. All exports you make must be in accordance with the rules on transfrontier shipments of waste.

As an approved exporter you must keep a record of all exports of WEEE and ensure that all treatment or recovery overseas is undertaken to standards equivalent to those set out in the WEEE Directive. At the end of each compliance period you will also need to appoint an independent auditor to validate the evidence you have issued.

If WEEE has been treated before export, then it is the original treatment facility that will issue the evidence. The treatment facility must be approved and authorised by us. However, the treatment facility must use an approved exporter to undertake the export of the treated (or partially treated) WEEE. You will need to provide confirmation to the operator of the treatment facility that the material has been exported and that it will be recovered overseas to the necessary standards. Information on how you can do this is available from our website.

## What you need to do

We have produced guidance on the approval process and the independent audits. Guidance and other key information is published in the WEEE section of our website

[www.environment-agency.gov.uk/weee](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/weee)

## WEEE and the Waste Shipment Regulations

All exports of waste from the UK for disposal are banned. However, the export of WEEE for recovery is permitted and controlled by the EU Waste Shipments Regulations. All exporters of WEEE (or other wastes) need to comply with these export controls, not just those WEEE exporters that have been approved by the Environment Agency.

The UK Transfrontier Shipment of Waste (TFS) legislation that supports these regulations were revised in July 2007.

For further guidance on the transfrontier shipment of waste including the notification of the export of WEEE please visit our website: [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk);

phone the TFS National Service on +44 (0)1925 542265, fax +44 (0)1925 542105;

or email [nattfs@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:nattfs@environment-agency.gov.uk)

## Where to find out more

BERR has lots of up-to-date and in-depth information on its website:  
[www.berr.gov.uk/innovation/sustainability/weee/page30269.html](http://www.berr.gov.uk/innovation/sustainability/weee/page30269.html)

You can also get more information on the regulations from our website at <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/weee> Here there are links to frequently asked questions.

There are links to frequently asked questions and a list of events, seminars and workshops you could attend to find out more. <http://www.netregs.gov.uk>

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

or email us: [enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)

<sup>1</sup> The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2006

<sup>2</sup> For exporters based in England or Wales