



Department of the
Environment
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Date: 22 April 2009

Dear Consultee,

Consultation on the European Commission's proposed recast of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive and the Restriction of the use of certain Hazardous Substances in electrical and electronic equipment (RoHS) Directives

The Department for Business Enterprise & Regulatory Reform (BERR), the lead Whitehall Department for WEEE and RoHS, recently issued a UK-wide informal consultation paper concerning the recasting of the WEEE and RoHS Directives. The Department of the Environment is issuing this consultation to Northern Ireland stakeholders today. The informal consultation period is for 4 weeks.

The consultation paper seeks opinions on the European Commission's proposals to recast the WEEE and RoHS Directives.

The proposals for changes to the WEEE Directive can be summarised as follows:

- that the scope (ie. which electrical goods are covered) of the Directive should be defined by reference to Annex I of the recast RoHS Directive,
- that the collection target should be changed from 4kg per head to a collection rate of 65% of average weight of sales of new electrical goods,
- that the recycling targets should be increased,
- that producers can show the cost of collection, treatment and disposal of new equipment at the time of purchase,

- that registers of electrical producers is enhanced to allow the ease of information exchange between Member States, and
- that a regime is introduced to monitor the export of WEEE outside the European Community.

The main changes proposed in the recast of the RoHS Directive are:

- That the scope of the RoHS Directive is defined in the Directive and the scope is expanded to include medical devices and monitoring & control equipment, and
- That the procedure for granting exemptions from RoHS for certain components, is refined and a four-year maximum validity period for all exemptions be introduced.

A copy of the consultation paper can be downloaded from the following website addresses:

<http://www.berr.gov.uk/consultations/index.html>

http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/protect_the_environment/waste.htm

You can also request a copy by telephone (028 9054 4505), by textphone (028 9054 0642), by fax (028 9054 4520) or in writing from the above address. The consultation document can also be made available in large print, disc, Braille or audiocassette. It may also be made available in minority languages for those who are not proficient in English. The Department will translate executive summaries of key publications into Irish or Ulster-Scots upon request.

Comments in relation to the consultation paper should be sent to arrive by 9 February 2009 to: Paul Burns, Planning and Environmental Policy Group, Department of the Environment, Calvert House, 23 Castle Place, Belfast, BT1 1FY, by email to Paul.Burns@doeni.gov.uk , by fax to 028 9025 4732 or by textphone to 028 9054 0642.

Yours faithfully

Paul Burns