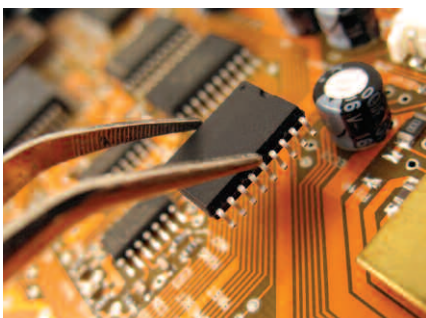


## THE WEEE REGULATIONS AND PRODUCERS OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

The WEEE Regulations aim to tackle the growing amount of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) and to reduce its impact on the environment. The Regulations apply to all producers putting electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) in ten categories<sup>1</sup> onto the UK market. You are a producer if you:

- manufacture and sell EEE under your own brand;
- resell EEE produced by another supplier under your own brand (ie re-branding);
- import EEE into the UK on a professional basis.

The Regulations apply to all producers regardless of their turnover, market share or number of employees. They cover both household WEEE and EEE discarded as waste by non-household or business users.



### OBLIGATIONS

Producers have a number of obligations under the WEEE Regulations. You must:

- join an approved Producer Compliance Scheme or set up your own;
- finance the collection, treatment, recovery and environmentally sound disposal of your market share of WEEE;
- mark all new EEE placed on the market after 1 April 2007 with the crossed out wheeled bin symbol (see Fig 1), a producer identification mark and a date mark;
- give information to WEEE treatment and reprocessing facilities about new products put on the UK market to help with effective treatment, re-use and recycling;
- provide your producer registration number to distributors to whom you supply EEE;
- keep records for four years.

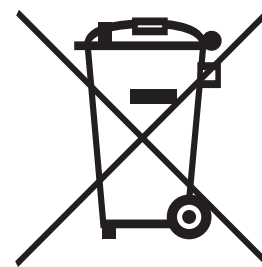


Fig 1 Approved symbol

If you sell EEE direct to household users in the UK (eg via internet sales or a factory outlet), you will have additional obligations as a distributor of household EEE.<sup>2</sup>

### PRODUCER COMPLIANCE SCHEMES

A Producer Compliance Scheme must be approved by the Environment Agency (England and Wales), SEPA (Scotland) or the Northern Ireland Environment Agency. The schemes differ in the services they provide and in their fee structure. Lists of approved schemes are available on the agencies' websites (see overleaf).

<sup>1</sup> See EN759 *An overview of the WEEE Regulations.*

<sup>2</sup> See EN761 *The WEEE Regulations and distributors of electrical and electronic equipment.*

You will be asked to pay a registration fee, a fee for the scheme's administrative services and a fee for the collection, treatment, recovery and environmentally sound disposal of WEEE in line with your market share (depends on the amount and types of products). Initially, you will be asked to provide information regarding EEE put on the market during the current year, broken down into product categories and household/non-household. Such information will then be required every quarter.

Your Producer Compliance Scheme will:

- Register you as a producer with the appropriate agency.
- Report the EEE you place on the market to the agency.
- Arrange for WEEE deposited at Designated Collection Facilities or received directly from distributors to be accepted by an Authorised Treatment Facility or an approved exporter.

- Provide evidence to the agencies at the end of each compliance period to show its members have met their recovery and recycling obligations. This evidence will be obtained from the approved Authorised Treatment Facility and approved exporters of WEEE.

Your obligations for household and non-household WEEE are determined differently, but are both discharged through your Producer Compliance Scheme. Your market share for household WEEE will be calculated by the agencies based on the information you provide to your Producer Compliance Scheme. Your obligation for non-household WEEE relates directly to individual sales. Your financial obligations relate to:

- household WEEE arising in each compliance period as the proportion given by your share of the UK market for EEE in each category;
- non-household WEEE arising in each compliance period from:
  - EEE you placed on the market on or after 13 August 2005;

- EEE placed on the market before 13 August 2005 ('historic' WEEE) by any supplier which the consumer is replacing with equivalent new EEE provided by you.

### CLEANER DESIGN

Improving the design of your product to facilitate dismantling and recovery (particularly the re-use and recycling of components and materials) will make it easier to meet the WEEE Regulations. You could also reduce your costs and environmental impacts. Advice on cleaner design is available from Envirowise (see below).



## SOURCES OF HELP AND FURTHER INFORMATION

### Envirowise:

Envirowise can help your business understand how to respond to WEEE in a way that minimises resources and costs.

- Free publications including other fact sheets and GG765 *An introduction to WEEE and RoHS*
- Expert advice on cleaner design - [www.envirowise.gov.uk/cleanerdesign](http://www.envirowise.gov.uk/cleanerdesign)

### For specific compliance advice, please contact:

**BIS** (Department for Business, Innovation & Skills) - [www.berr.gov.uk/sectors/sustainability/weee/page30269.html](http://www.berr.gov.uk/sectors/sustainability/weee/page30269.html)

**Environment Agency** (England and Wales) - [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/waste](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/waste)

**Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)** - [www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk)

**Northern Ireland Environment Agency** - [www.ni-environment.gov.uk/waste.htm](http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/waste.htm)

**NetRegs** - [www.netregs.gov.uk](http://www.netregs.gov.uk)

