

What help is out there?

The following list is not meant to be exhaustive but it should point you in the right direction:

VCA, for general advice and information:

Internet - <http://www.vca.gov.uk/enforcement/weee-enforcement.asp>

Help Line - 0844 8000 819

Email - weee@vca.gov.uk

BIS, for information on the original legislation:

Internet - <http://www.berr.gov.uk/sectors/sustainability/weee/page30269.html>

Email - weee@bis.gsi.gov.uk

Environment Agency

Internet - <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/weee>

VALPAK, for information on the distributor take-back scheme:

Internet - <https://www.valpak.co.uk/weee/>

Scottish Environmental Protection Agency

Internet - <http://www.sepa.org.uk/>

Northern Ireland Environment Agency

Internet - <http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/waste>



WEEE Legislation and YOUR obligations

as a business to
consumer (B2C) distributor



The purpose of this leaflet is to inform distributors of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) of their **LEGAL** obligations, as outlined in the Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment Regulations.

Am I a distributor to households?

For the purposes of the WEEE Regulations, you are a distributor if you provide electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) to householders, irrespective of the method of supply. Distributors include wholesalers, retailers and distance sellers (e.g. internet retailers, mail order retailers and telephone-sales businesses), and producers who supply (EEE) direct to households.

Legislation in a nutshell

The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive (WEEE Directive) is a European Directive which was introduced with a view to minimising the impact of (EEE) on the environment, by increasing re-use and recycling and reducing the amount of WEEE going to landfill. The Directive was later recognised in UK legislation, which came into force 2nd January 2007. The key effect of the legislation for B2C distributors of electrical and electronic equipment is the fact that from 1st July 2007 you have been required to have processes in place to allow household customers purchasing (EEE) to return their WEEE, and this should be free of charge in-store.

An internet retailer also needs to offer a route to householders to return their WEEE for recycling this can be done by offering free take back or by joining the Distributor Take-Back Scheme (see 'How can I fulfil my obligations').

What is WEEE?

The WEEE Regulations apply to electrical and electronic equipment (EEE), which currently falls within the 10 product categories listed in the WEEE Directive:

1. Large household appliances.
2. Small household appliances.
3. IT & Telecommunications equipment.
4. Consumer equipment.
5. Lighting equipment.
6. Electrical and electronic tools.
7. Toys leisure and sports equipment.
8. Medical devices.
9. Monitoring and control instruments.
10. Automatic dispensers.



Will anyone be checking on compliance?

This particular piece of legislation is handled by BIS and they have appointed another Government organisation, VCA, to act as the enforcement body in respect of the distributors (to households) obligations to contribute towards the collection of household WEEE. They will also be checking to make sure that producers of (EEE) are marking goods correctly. Enforcement is already underway to assess the level of compliance and where issues are found, distributors and producers will be encouraged to take corrective action and ultimately, the ability to prosecute does exist.

How can I fulfil my obligations?

As a distributor, you have two options:

1. You can either join the Distributor Take-Back Scheme (DTS), which supports a network of primarily local authority collection points where households can return their waste electricals.
2. Or you can allow customers to bring WEEE back to the store. Or in the case of an internet retailer you need to offer a route for the householder to return their WEEE item back to you for recycling.

It should be noted that you are required to take-back equipment on a like for like basis; you would not be expected to take in a washing machine if someone is buying a toaster from you.

Whether distributors are members of the DTS or provide in-store take-back facilities, distributors also have to make information available to households on how they can dispose of WEEE and the environmental benefits of doing so.

All (EEE) placed on the market after 13th August 2005 should be marked with the crossed out wheeled bin symbol. You need to keep records of the WEEE received and disposed of*



*DTS members are allowed certain exceptions