

The EU Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive 2002/95/EC

Costs - £161m per year ([Open Europe](#))

Talking Points

Costs

The directive compels importers, producers and rebranders of EEE goods pay for collection and 'responsible' recycling of the goods. Furthermore, designers of EEE products have to factor in the end-of-life of the product, how easy it is to disassemble and recycle. This may conflict with the efficiency of production and add further costs to products in the market.

Who has responsibility?

The Directive places substantial responsibilities on the 'producer' of EEE goods to collect and recycle the goods. EEE goods producer [Farnell](#) highlights the differing definitions of 'producer' across the EU, ranging from manufacturers to importers of EEE goods. The scope of the definition aims to impose as many costs as possible to ensure compliance with the aims of the Directive.

Anti-Technology scope of the Directive

Aside from its goal of increasing recycling of EEE goods, the Directive also aims to reduce the number of EEE goods in the EU. It represents an anti-technology move fuelled by green hysteria.

What is it?

A Directive to reduce the amount of electronic and electrical equipment being produced and to encourage recycling of electric and electronic equipment in use. The European Parliament has approved a target of 85% recycling rate for EEE goods.

The directive covers appliances under 1000 volts and [includes](#):

- Large and small household appliances
- IT and telecommunications equipment
- Consumer equipment
- Lighting equipment
- Electrical and electronic tools
- Toys, leisure and sports equipment
- Medical devices
- Monitoring and control equipment
- Automatic dispensers.

As of 2005, producers of EEE goods are compelled to report, through the Environment Agency compliance scheme, the weight of goods placed on the market and retain the sales of all EEE goods on a quarterly basis.

Producers of EEE goods are defined in the directive as:

- an EU based manufacturer who supply their products in a EU State
- an organisation that supply products made by another manufacturer under their own brand
- importers into a Member State on a professional basis. This could be a distributor that also imports products
- distance sellers located in one Member State who supply equipment to users in another Member State

[Producers of EEE goods have to:](#)

- join an approved producer compliance scheme
- pay for the collection, treatment, recovery and environmentally sound disposal of household waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)
- label all new electrical and electronic products with a crossed-out wheeled bin symbol and producer identification mark
- make available information to WEEE treatment and reprocessing facilities about new products put on the UK market to help with effective treatment, reuse and recycling
- give a registration number to distributors you supply equipment to
- keep records for at least four years, including the amounts of EEE placed on the UK market, and sales to end users in other European Union member states.

Distributors of EEE goods must allow for free 'take back' policies to allow recycling and disposal.

Recycling and treating WEEE goods involves obtaining a permit, be an 'approved/authorised treatment facility' and sets targets on recycling and recovery per good as set down [here](#).

Third Party Opinions

“Nigel Smith, policy director of the British Retail Consortium, estimates there are more than 100,000 retailers that will have to comply with the directive.” [Daily Telegraph 13 December 2005](#)

“The WEEE directive is intended to make producers – instead of taxpayers — pay for this service so manufacturers design equipment to be more easily recycled. Shops — even a newsagent selling a torch — either have to take back the waste equipment or join a scheme set up by retailers. Businesses below the VAT threshold will pay only £30 a year to join.” [Daily Telegraph 26 December 2006](#)