

Issue of Evidence for Metal derived from Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment which is destined for reprocessing outside the UK

Issue

1. Concerns have been expressed by Approved Authorised Treatment Facilities (AATFs), about the difficulties in issuing evidence of collection, treatment and reprocessing of WEEE when the derived metal is to be exported for final reprocessing.
2. The issues are complex and require investigation which will take around six months to complete. The system described below therefore an interim solution to the issue for evidence where treated metal, derived from WEEE is destined for reprocessing outside the UK.

Interim Arrangement

3. AATFs dealing with metal derived from WEEE destined for export can with immediate effect, issue evidence of collection, treatment and reprocessing at the point that metal has completed all necessary treatment processes in the UK. That is the metal derived from WEEE is in a state to be placed into a smelter for reprocessing without further treatment. These arrangements are for Compliance Period 1 and Compliance Period 2 only.
4. This interim arrangement is specifically for WEEE-derived metals to be exported. It will not be applied to whole appliances or other WEEE derived materials for export nor will it apply to metals or other materials to be reprocessed within the UK.
5. This interim arrangement is only valid for Compliance Period 1 and Compliance Period 2. It therefore only applies to evidence for WEEE collected and treated between 1 July and 31 December 2007 (for which evidence can be issued until 30 April 2008) and WEEE collected and treated between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2008 (for which evidence can be issued until 30 April 2009).
6. Although we intend the interim arrangements will apply for CP1 and CP2 we will keep this under review and reserve the right to amend or withdraw where necessary.

Criteria

7. In order for an AATF to benefit from the interim arrangement set out in 5 above issue evidence the following criteria must be satisfied:
 - Metal must be derived from WEEE under The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2006 as amended by The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (Amendment) Regulations 2007;
 - The derived metals are destined for reprocessing outside the UK;
 - Metal has been source segregated i.e. it is not within a general mix of other materials, for example paper and plastic;

Continuation 2

- The material requires no further processing overseas prior to being recovered and the recovery process has a very low rate of process loss;
- The treated metal is subject to a sales agreement with an approved exporter or there is documentation to show, that where the AATF and exporter are the same organisation, an appropriate transfer and audit trail (see below).

Audit requirements

8. The AATF issuing evidence must ensure they have appropriate documentation as part of the audit trail to show :
 - The treated metal can be related to a tonnage of untreated WEEE received by the AATF;
 - The treated metal is subject to a sales agreement with an approved exporter for reprocessing outside the UK, or where the AATF is an approved exporter, processes are in place within the organisation to show transfer from treatment to export;
9. All appropriate documentation can be generated by the issuing AATF, for example weigh-bridge tickets, waste transfer notes, invoice to confirm sale, signed contracts etc.

Next Steps

10. BERR will shortly issue a supplement to the Non Statutory Guidance Notes which confirms this position. The environment agencies will also amend and reissue their guidance on evidence.
11. BERR, Defra and the three environment authorities are planning a review into the evidence system for all categories of WEEE and derived materials. This review will cover materials which will be reprocessed within the UK or overseas.
12. The details and timescales for this review have not yet been finalised but details will be communicated to stakeholders in early April 2008.
13. It is likely however, the review will include examining other producer responsibility regimes both in the UK and other member states, informal discussions with individual organisations and representative bodies and discussion with the WEEE Advisory Body (WAB) (or appropriate working group).