

WEEE Advisory Body (WAB) – Work Implementation plan and Measurement

Overview

This work implementation plan is to be read in conjunction with the Terms of Reference for the WEEE¹ Advisory Body (“WAB”) and in particular, the objectives that have been set out therein.

This is a working document that will be kept under constant review by the WAB.

Analysis of WAB objectives and specific work plan areas

The WAB objectives can be categorised into 5 broad headings:

- Current UK System
- IPR
- Reuse
- B2B
- EC Review

Arising from these, the specific work plan areas will be:-

- a) To review and improve the effectiveness of the WEEE Regulations in delivering the objectives and specific targets set out within the WEEE Directive.
- b) To review the UK’s compliance with the WEEE Directive and the effectiveness of enforcement by the Environment Agencies.
- c) To seek an improvement in the environmental performance of all operators and/or lifecycle of WEEE whether through regulations and/or other means.
- d) To review the collection, treatment and recycling infrastructure facilities in place for WEEE and the effectiveness of these in ensuring the UK’s compliance with the WEEE Directive.
- e) To review the effectiveness of the arrangements in place for enabling and encouraging the return of WEEE by consumers.
- f) To provide input into and/or recommendations to BERR in respect of the forthcoming EC Review of the WEEE Directive for the benefit of all stakeholders.
- g) To collect and share best practice with Europe to ensure that the UK is seen as a leader in this field.

¹ A background to WEEE can be found in Appendix 3

- h) To engage with key government departments, the devolved administrations and other delivery partners to ensure a cohesive and consistently led regulatory approach across the WEEE sector as a whole.
- i) To make recommendations on the steps necessary to improve the reuse, recovery and recycling agenda.
- j) To make recommendations on the steps necessary for the development of new and/or existing markets for the treatment, reuse, recovery and recycling of WEEE.
- k) To make recommendations for a realistic and deliverable framework initiative for 'Individual Producer Responsibility – IPR'.
- l) To identify those barriers which prevent the achievement of these objectives and to recommend actions to address them.

These will be prioritised by the WAB to ensure actual delivery.

Plan Implementation

The plan will be implemented through the establishment of focused sub groups. Currently, there are four sub groups:-

- **Sub Group 1:** (Immediate Matters) – Current UK System
- **Sub Group 2:** (Development Matters) – IPR, B2B, EC Review
- **Sub Group 3:** Data
- **Sub Group 4:** Reuse

Each sub group will be subject to the existing WAB Terms of Reference and the WAB Operational and Governance Framework.

Sub Group Composition

- **Sub Group 1:** Joy Boyce (Chair), Julie-Ann Adams, Phil Morton, Phil Conran, Mark Shelton, Jonathan Gorman plus a representative from NAWDO.
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- **Sub Group 2:** John Holbrow (Chair), Gary Griffiths, Leigh Holloway, Terry Maguire, Kirstie McIntyre, John Morrell, Peter Calliafas.
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- **Sub Group 3:** Phil Conran (Chair), Phil Morton, Joy Boyce, the EA/SEPA, Steve Gough (Valpak) representing the DTS, Rob Chaddock (EMR) representing a large AATF, one small AATF (tba), Philip Morton (Repic) representing a large PCS, BERR.
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- **Sub Group 4:** Gary Griffiths (Chair), Terry Maguire, Leigh Holloway, Craig Anderson (FRN) and Mark Dempsey (HP)

Actions required and progress made will be captured using the tables below². This work plan will be carefully monitored by the full WAB at each of its quarterly meetings.

WEEE ADVISORY BODY – WORK IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND MEASUREMENT

Appendix 1 Sub Group Actions

	Data
What are the key material issues and/or factors that are impacting on the effectiveness of the WEEE Regulations and WEEE Directive?	
What actions are required now and why?	
What changes are needed to the WEEE Regulations and/or WEEE Directive and why?	
What will be the benefits (financial/non financial)?	
What are the possible unintended consequences arising from the above and how can these be mitigated?	

² See Appendices 1 & 2

APPENDIX 3: AN INTRODUCTION TO WEEE

The production of electrical and electronic equipment is one of the fastest growing areas of manufacturing industry in the Western world.

This development leads to a significant increase in waste electrical and electronic equipment or WEEE, as it is now known for short. It is estimated that 2m tonnes is disposed of each year in the UK alone.

The WEEE stream is a complex mixture of materials and components, some of which are hazardous (TVs and PC screens, cooling appliances, gas discharge lamps etc.) leading to increased treatment and disposal problems at the waste stage.

In recognition of the environmental impacts, particularly at end of life, and resource depletion issues around the substances found in WEEE, the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive – 2002/96/EC was ratified by the European Parliament in December 2002. The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2006 were introduced in January 2007 and implemented in the UK on the 1st July 2007.

The principle duty holder is the manufacturer/importer of EEE (the producer pays principle) who is responsible for funding the collection/recovery/disposal from domestic users and also commercial users (free of charge). All producers (which includes manufacturers, importers and distance sellers) have to register with a *Producer Compliance Scheme* and report the amount of EEE placed on the UK market.

Electrical retailers also have obligations under the regulations; either they can join the national distributor take-back scheme or they can instigate their own take-back systems i.e. an in-store facility for the collection of an old appliance when a new one is purchased.

There are different arrangements for those companies who are selling business-to-business equipment (such as commercial catering or office equipment). If a purchaser has similar equipment (the term is “like for like”) that has reached its end of life and that was purchased prior to August 2005, then they can request that the seller takes back the said waste appliance free of charge and that they dispose of it at an appropriately licensed facility. The Regulations allow producers and business users to agree alternative arrangements.

All separately collected WEEE (as defined) has to go to an Approved Authorised Treatment Facility (AATF) or to an Approved Exporter(AE) – which are specially licensed treatment facilities or exporters who are able to issue evidence to the Producer Compliance Schemes to enable them to prove that their members are compliant with the relevant legislation. The key objectives to be achieved under the WEEE Directive are:-

- a) To improve the environmental performance of all operations involved in the lifecycle of WEEE.
- b) To reduce the amount of WEEE sent to landfill.
- c) To achieve more reuse, recovery and recycling of WEEE.
- d) To ensure the safe treatment and disposal of hazardous components.
- e) To encourage producers to make products easier to recycle.

The 10 EU categories are as follows:

- Category 1 – Large household appliances (cookers, microwaves, washing machines etc)
- Category 2 – Small household appliances (vacuum cleaners, clocks, toasters etc)
- Category 3 – IT and Telecommunications equipment (PCs, mainframes, printers, copiers, phones etc)
- Category 4 – Consumer equipment (radios, hifi, musical instruments, videos, camcorders etc)
- Category 5 – Lighting equipment (Fluorescent tubes, sodium lamps etc)
- Category 6 – Electrical and electronic tools (drills, sewing machines, electric lawnmowers etc)
- Category 7 – Toys, leisure and sports equipment (electric trains, games consoles, running machines etc)
- Category 8 – Medical devices (Analysers, dialysis, medical freezers etc)
- Category 9 – Monitoring and control instruments (smoke detectors, thermostats, scales etc)
- Category 10 – Automatic dispensers (hot drinks machines, sweet and chocolate bar dispensers, cash machines etc)

The three further UK categories are:

- Display equipment (Computer screens and Televisions)
- Cooling appliances containing refrigerants
- Gas discharge lamps

WEEE Directive/WEEE Regulations
Recycling/Recovery Targets

Category	Description	Recovery %	Recycling %
Category 1	Large Household Appliances	80	75
Category 2	Small Household Appliances	70	50
Category 3	IT & Comms Equip	75	65
Category 4	Consumer Equip	75	65
Category 5	Lighting Equip	70	50
Category 6	Electronic Tools	70	50
Category 7	Toys, Leisure & Sports Equip	70	50
Category 8	Medical Equipment	TBA	TBA ³
Category 9	Monitoring & Control Equip	70	50
Category 10	Vending Machines	80	75
Category 11	Display Equipment	75	65
Category 12	Cooling Appliances (Fridges & Freezers)	80	75
Category 13	Gas Discharge Lamps	n/a	80

³ EC will set target by 31 December 2008

The WEEE Regulations specifically exclude certain items including:

- Products intended solely for national security and/or military purposes;
- Filament light bulbs ;
- Household luminaires ;
- Large-scale stationary industrial tools ;
- Implanted and infected medical devices.

