

Note of Technical Adaptation Committee Meeting 7th March 2008

Attended by Steve Norgrove and Peter Cottrell (both BERR)

Vote of Decision Amending Annex II of ELV Directive

Member States were asked to vote on a new annex that introduced the “repair as produced” concept, and made certain minor revisions to permitted heavy metal limits and exemption expiry dates. One member State abstained, the rest voted in favour. The Commission estimate was that the new Annex would be formally adopted around May/June but the new comitology procedure may affect the timescale.

UK said that the review of exemption 8(b) (lead used in solder on glass) should be carried out with care to make sure that took into account different applications and production methods. Another member State wanted the review for exemptions 8(a) and (b) to be carried out promptly.

Annex I – Glass Dismantling

There were a variety of views on whether the Directive should be prescriptive with regard whether glass should be removed before shredding. Of those that spoke, seven member States were clearly in favour of allowing operators’ choice, whereas only two thought glass removal before shredding should be compulsory. Three member States were pro-choice but with minor reservations. The Commission would consider the views expressed before deciding whether to propose a revision to Annex I.

Implementation in Member States

One MS attempted to find out about the Commission’s likely approach to infracting MSs that didn’t meet the 2006 recovery target. A Commission infraction official present would not make any commitments, but his reply implied that they would take into account whether MSs had suitable systems in place that were intended to allow them to reach the target – not just whether or not the target was actually achieved. Commissioners were meeting once a month on infringements – current priorities were WEEE, ELV, RoHS and Landfill Directive. One MS suggested that a future meeting should address how MSs’ monitoring and measurement of recovery performance could be harmonised.. Another issue that may receive attention shortly is the export of vehicles that are near the end of their natural lives. One MS said that they were only treating about one fifth of the vehicles that were used on their roads.

Automotive Shredder Residue

This issue was raised as one State is considering banning ASR from non-hazardous landfill – but they were first seeking from TAC members information about practice and experience. They also asked about current ELV recovery practice.

The UK gave the view that shredder residue was classified as non-hazardous in England and Wales and is disposed of to non-hazardous landfills. We also offered the report from our shredder trial, and described the various recovery routes being deployed by obligated parties in UK.

One MS said that from 2009 landfill of shredder residue would be banned in their territory. Two other MS reported concerns about shredder residue going to landfill.

Airbags

Only one MS reported serious concerns about vehicle airbags being removed and re-used. That MS has its own list of 19 items from vehicles that could not be removed and re-used under its own national laws.

The UK said that it was not yet convinced of the need to prohibit the resale of dismantled airbags -- provided dismantling was carried out by trained individuals, taking into account of health and safety issues and re-fitted appropriately. We understood that airbags were, in any case, removed and reinserted during routine vehicle servicing.

PETER COTTRELL
25/03/2008