STATUS AND PERSPECTIVES OF THE WEEE DIRECTIVE

EUROPEAN POLICIES IMPACTING THE LIGHTING MARKET

Frankfurt, 20 March 2018
Outline

• Objectives and provisions of the WEEE Directive
• Applications to the lamps sector
• Who should comply? What to do?
• What changes in 2018 (manufacturers reporting obligations, open scope, household luminaires)
• Actions to ensure compliance with WEEE obligations (and proposals to address freeriding via online sales)
• Outlook – next review?
Introductory remarks on the WEEE Directive

• **WEEE**- Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment


• New Directive 2012/19/EU: August 2012, was to be transposed into national legislation of the Member States by **14 February 2014**

• **2016**: First year where all EU Member States had transposed
UNREGULATED AND UNTREATED, WEEE LEADS TO NUMEROUS ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Substances contained in WEEE...

- Greenhouse gases
- Chlorinated fluorocarbons (CFCs)
- Heavy metals
- Certain flame retardants

...can lead to risks for health and the environment in terms of

- Global warming
- Destruction of the ozone layer
- Leakage from landfills into water and soil
- Possible formation of new hazardous substances during incineration
SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF RESOURCES ARE TRAPPED IN EEE AFTER PRODUCTION

Resource demand for use in EEE as approximate share of total demand (Estimates for 2006)

Source: Hagelüken/Meskers (Umicore), „Mining our Computers“, 2008
A: Landfill

B: Unclear - potential sub-standard treatment

C: Proper treatment, recycling, recovery

Household e-waste

Collection facility/retailer/2nd hand shop

54%, to shrink

13% to shrink

33%, to rise to 85%
Key elements of the new EU WEEE Directive

**Collection**
Until 2015: Member States to achieve 4kg collection target
Increased ambition levels **2016** and **2019**

**Treatment**
Member States to ensure all WEEE properly treated (Annex VII)
(voluntary) European standards for WEEE treatment (including a specific standard on treatment of lamps EN 50625-2-1 and TS 50625-3-2)

**Recycling**
Recycling and Recovery targets per category
Including Preparation for re-use
Simplified categories for recycling targets

**EPR Financing**
Producers to set up systems to provide for recovery of WEEE, responsible from collection point onwards
Distributors responsible that waste can be returned one-to-one basis
Large distributors to take back small WEEE (free of charge)

**Clearing structure**
Reporting to national registers will be harmonised
EU Member States report to the Commission
**Lighting equipment in scope of Directive**

- **Until 14 August 2018** (Annex I, *transitional period*) applicable Category 5 "lighting equipment“ includes all lamps with the exception of filament bulbs and all luminaires with the exception of luminaires in households (Annex II)

- **From 15 August 2018**: Open scope (Annex III)
  - Category 3: Lamps
  - Category 4: Large luminaires (any external dimension more than 50cm)
  - Category 5: Small luminaires (no external dimension more than 50cm)
  - *Exception*: filament bulbs
INCREASE OF DOCUMENTED COLLECTION AND TREATMENT THROUGH A PACKAGE OF MEASURES

- Member States to ensure gradual increase of collection
  - 2016: of 45% WEEE (compared to EEE sold on average last 3 years)
  - 2019: of 65% of new EEE sold, or of 85% of WEEE generated

- All WEEE (incl. B2B) now to count into the targets (Approximately 87% of WEEE arising in the EU is B2C and 13% is B2B)

- Retail shops larger than 400 m² to collect WEEE up to 25cm length (measure expected to increase collection)
"Product responsibility" for (W)EEE – REQUIREMENTS BORN BY PRODUCERS

- **Producer** = who places EEE on the market of a MS (manufacturer, retailer selling under own name, importer, distance seller)

- **Eco-design responsibility** (Eco-design Directive, WEEE Directive, Art. 4)

- **Waste operations and financing responsibility** (Articles 5 (collection), 12 (financing private households), 13 (financing other than private households))

- **Recovery targets** (Article 11, Annex V)

- **Information responsibility on product content and recycling properties** (Articles 14 and 15)

- **Registration** and **Reporting** responsibility (Article 16)
Different operators under the WEEE Directive

- Producers, including distance sellers
- Distributors: important role in collection
- Authorised Representatives
- Producer Responsibility organisations
- Treatment facilities/Recyclers
Obligations for producers of lighting equipment

**Recycling and recovery targets increasing over time:**

- **From 13 August 2012 until 14 August 2015:**
  - For WEEE within category 5 "lighting equipment": 70 % shall be recovered, and 50 % shall be recycled;
  - for gas discharge lamps, 80 % shall be recycled.

- **From 15 August 2015 until 14 August 2018:**
  - for WEEE falling within category 5 "lighting equipment": 75 % shall be recovered, and 55 % shall be prepared for reuse and recycled;
  - for gas discharge lamps, 80 % shall be recycled.

- **From 15 August 2018:**
  - for lamps (category 3): 80 % shall be recycled.
  - for large luminaires (category 4): 85 % shall be recovered, and 80% shall be prepared for reuse and recycled;
  - for small luminaires (category 5): 75 % shall be recovered, and 55% shall be prepared for reuse and recycled;
15 years of EU WEEE legislation

85% target **collection of WEEE generated** by 2019

65% target **collection of EEE put on market** by 2019

**WEEE collection (million tn)**

Source: Eurostat

Analytical data per EU Member State can also be found in Eurostat’s web-page:

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/waste/key-waste-streams/weee
INCREASE SEPARATE COLLECTION

- Reaching the target is challenging and even not feasible for some Member States if the current pace is maintained.

Source: Study on WEEE collection rates (UNU, CBS, BIO, REC, 2014)
Lighting Equipment (Category 5)

- **Put on market**: Lighting equipment and gas discharge lamps = around 5% of the total EEE placed on the EU-28 market annually

- **WEEE collected**: Lighting equipment and gas discharge lamps = around 2% of the total WEEE collected annually in the EU-28

- **Recycling**: Lighting equipment and gas discharge lamps = around 2% of the total WEEE recycled annually in the EU-28
Outlook on developments

- **Circular economy package** (to be adopted April, MS will have 2 years to comply from entry into force: changes in reporting (only Eurostat);

- General requirements for EPR schemes: Producer Responsibility Organisations (PROs) have 54 months (4 and a half years) to comply

- **WEEE Compliance promotion exercise:**
  - Scoping of MS performance. Identify gaps and learning from good practice on all areas of WEEE collection, organisation of management and treatment, oriented towards reaching the targets. ‘Dialogue’ to continue. But also enforcement action where necessary.
  - Next years’ focus EU level: all WEEE flows reporting and counting quantities, information for treatment/reuse operators, treatment standards, distance selling and authorised representatives, reuse and waste prevention...
Some focus areas of Compliance promotion – Increase collection

- critical assessment of current collection infrastructure
- Opportunities to give back WEEE and inform consumers accordingly
- Develop consumer awareness
- Protect and secure collected WEEE
- Prohibit cash payments for scrap and obliged all actors to be registered with a compliance scheme
- Define ownership of WEEE

Encourage MS to promote prohibiting cash payments for dealing with WEEE
Recommendations to Member States on WEEE treatment

- Strictly enforce requirements for proper treatment
- Producers of EEE and treatment operators continue dialogue to enable the provision of information on EEE composition
- Possibly more specific minimum quality standards for treatment via an Implementing Act
Member States to ensure that:

1. **EPR schemes:** Clearly define **roles and responsibilities**, establish measurable **targets** re waste management and **reporting systems**. Ensure **equal treatment** and non-discrimination.

2. **Waste holders:** to be **informed** about waste collection and litter prevention, **incentivized** to participate in separate collection.

3. **PROs:** clearly defined **coverage** (geographical, products, materials), Provide appropriate availability of **collection systems**, sufficient operational and financial **means** to meet obligations, adequate **self-control** mechanisms and audits; **transparency**.

4. **Financial contributions:** be ‘**modulated**’ taking into account re-usability/recyclability; be based on **optimised costs** in case of involvement of public waste operators.

5. **Adequate monitoring and enforcement framework,** **Independent** ‘monitoring’ authority in case of multiple PROs, regular stakeholder dialogue through EPR Platform.
Outlook on WEEE developments – cont'd

- Implementing regulation establishing the **format for registration and reporting** and the frequency of reporting to the register

- Implementation of WEEE Article 15: Launch of **I4R** (Information for recyclers) platform
  [http://www.i4r-platform.eu](http://www.i4r-platform.eu)
  - 5 product categories: large household appliances, small appliances, cooling and freezing appliances/ temperature exchange equipment, IT equipment and screens

- Implementation of quality standards for the treatment of WEEE in the EU and abroad
Outlook on WEEE developments – Questions

- Open scope from 15 August: Transition from 10 to 6 categories
- Online sales
- Authorised representatives
Let's turn Europe into a more circular economy

Thank you!
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/weee/index_en.htm

European Commission
Directorate-General ENVIRONMENT
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