



Fire Industry Association

ENVIRONMENTAL FACT FILE 05

Waste Management Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment

1. Applicability

This Fact File is specifically about disposal of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) with guidance on the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations (see 'Section 5 Relevant Legislation' for details). If your organisation is responsible for producing, manufacturing, importing, rebranding, storing, transporting, recycling, recovering or disposing of electrical or electronic items, then this Fact File is likely to apply to you.

2. Background

Production and use of EEE is increasing both in the UK and globally. This can be partly attributed to the high turnover of low cost electronic devices. There is a growing issue of how we dispose of this discarded technology, and due to scarcity of some resources included in various EEE, there is an ever increasing focus on the recovery of some of these materials. The WEEE Directive in the EU, and corresponding UK Regulations are aimed to reduce the amount of WEEE going to landfill and to encourage recovery, re-use and recycling of this used EEE.

3. Overview

The UK WEEE Regulations have been in force since January 2007, placing obligations on Producers of EEE to take environmental responsibility of their products.

The Regulations seek to:

- Prevent electrical and electronic equipment reaching landfill via encouragement of reuse, recycling and recovery
- Improve the environmental performance of companies involved in the life cycle of electrical and electronic equipment
- Ensure that the dismantling and recovery of components is considered in product design

Electronic components of fixed fire protection systems, both for domestic (Business to Customer - B2C) and commercial (Business to Business - B2B) markets are within the scope of the Directive and UK regulations. This includes:

- Smoke/heat detectors
- Measuring and testing equipment (e.g. multi-meters, detector test equipment and electronic weighing scales)
- Monitoring and control instruments (e.g. control panels and field devices)
- Emergency lighting equipment (including fluorescent lamps)

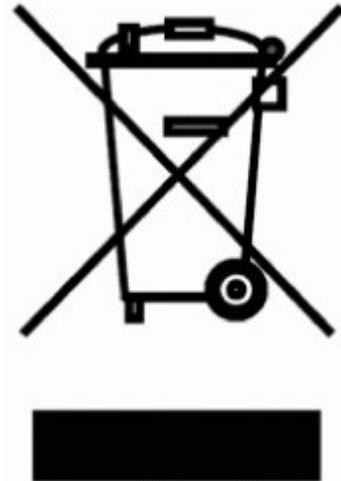
A new WEEE Directive was published in July 2012 with each Member state currently in the process of transposing the Directive into their national law.

The Directive continues to highlight producer responsibility, as a means of encouraging design and production of EEE which take into full account and facilitate its repair, upgrading, re-use, disassembly and recycling.

4. Action Required

Obligated Producers:

- Sign up to a Compliance Scheme (refer to Appendix A for schemes identified as suitable for this industry)
- Ensure products are as easy to disassemble and recycle as possible (See FIA Environmental Factfile - [Ecodesign](#))
- Products placed on the market after 13th August 2005 must be labelled with a trade name and the symbol indicating separate collection for EEE, as shown on the right. The symbol must be printed visibly, legibly and indelibly.
- Keep records showing how much (quantity and weight) electrical and electronic equipment you produce and place within the UK. Report annually (commercial) or quarterly (domestic) to your compliance scheme. For sales into other EU countries (member states) companies should follow relevant national legislation and guidance.



Installers & Maintainers (Waste Carriers):

- Installers/maintainers should discuss with their clients (the end users) how waste equipment is to be disposed of and ensure that the WEEE is delivered to an official recycling centre or via the manufacturer's compliance scheme
- This should be read in conjunction with the Waste and Hazardous Waste Regulations (Also see FIA Environmental Fact File 04 Waste Management)

5. Relevant Legislation

The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive (WEEE Directive) was introduced into UK law on 2nd January 2007 by the [Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment Regulations 2006](#). Updates to the UK Regulations were made in 2007, 2009 and 2010. Currently the UK is in the process of transposing the new WEEE Directive into UK legislation. This is expected to come into force in 2014.

6. Further Information

[WEEE Guidance from Environment Agency](#)

[Fact File 17 - Ionisation Chamber Smoke Detectors: Regulations for Manufacturing, Transport and Disposal](#)

[Fact File 15 - Ionisation Chamber Smoke Detectors and the Radioactive Material \(Road Transport\) Regulations 2002](#)

Appendix A

WEEE Compliance Schemes

The compliance schemes listed below have been identified as offering suitable compliance schemes for FIA member companies (the list is in alphabetical order and is not an indication of preference)

	Scheme	Address	Telephone	Website
1)	B2B Compliance	Emerald House, Cabin Lane, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 2DZ	01691 676 124	www.b2bcompliance.org.uk
2)	DHL (BSIA DHL) WEEE Compliance	2020 Middlemarch Business Park, Siskin Drive, Coventry, CV3 4FJ	0800 316 0498	www.dhl.co.uk/weee
3)	REPIC	REPIC Ltd, REPIC House, Waterfold, Bury, BL9 7 BR	0161 272 0001	www.repic.co.uk