

Consultation on Proposed Revisions to WEEE Regulations

The U.K. Department for Business Enterprise & Regulatory Reform (BERR) has published a consultation on proposed revisions to the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) regulations. The closing date for responses to the consultation is April 6, 2009.

The WEEE Directive was implemented in the U.K. by regulations which came into force on January 2, 2007. The aim of WEEE is to minimize the impact of electrical and electronic equipment by encouraging its reuse, recycling and recovery. The WEEE system and supporting infrastructure has been operational for almost two compliance periods. The government is considering revising the WEEE regulations to build upon the successes of the current infrastructure. The proposals outlined in the consultation are aimed at streamlining the WEEE system to:

- Improve the Producer Compliance Scheme (PCS) approval process;
- Develop the Distributor Take-back Scheme (DTS) beyond its current approval period; and
- Reduce the administrative burdens placed on business by simplifying the data reporting requirements and the evidence system.

The consultation seeks views on the following:

- The development of the Code of Practice for the Collection of WEEE from Designated Collection Facilities (DCF);
- The extension of Duty of Care;
- The most effective routes to develop industry protocols for WEEE; and
- The further development or revision of The Guidance on Best Available Treatment Recovery and Recycling Techniques (BATRRT).

The proposed changes to the regulations will allow stakeholders to benefit from reductions in administrative burdens in the following ways:

- An overall reduction in the amount of data to be submitted to the environmental agencies;
- Allowing evidence to be issued on the receipt of separately collected WEEE; and
- Removing the need for PCS to apply for approval every three compliance periods, although there will still be a requirement to submit “rolling” operational plans each year.

If adopted, these proposals would be effective for the 2010 compliance period.

Link to: [Government consultation on new regulations](#)

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