

What is WEEE

Waste Electronics and Electrical Equipment

The WEEE directive is designed to reduce the amount of consumer electrical and electronic equipment that, once it reaches the end of its working life, would otherwise end up in a landfill. It is designed to work in harmony with the RoHS directive by recycling as much equipment as possible, and thereby further reducing the amount of other substances potentially causing a pollution risk. This Directive was also finalised in 2003, and is expected to take effect from January 2006. The complete text of the directive can be found at this location: [Directive 2002/96/EC on waste electrical and electronic equipment \(WEEE\)](#)

The main objectives of the WEEE Directive are the prevention of waste electrical and electronic equipment; promote the re-use recycling and other forms of recovery of used materials and components, and to improve the environmental performance of all operators (manufacturers, traders, treatment facilities) involved in the life cycle of products. The Directive covers all equipment operating up to 1000 VAC and 1500 VDC and contained in a list of 10 categories.

The Directive specifies recovery, reuse and recycling targets in percentages (%) by average weight per appliance to be met by EU member states. Financing for collection, treatment, recovery and disposal is the responsibility of the producers of electrical and electronic equipment.

In cases where the producer is located outside the EU, the importer or distributor bears the responsibility for financing. By the end of 2006 member states must achieve a collection rate of 4 kg ofWEEE per inhabitant.

| Equipment category | Recovery target | Reuse recycling target |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Large household appliances | 80% | 75% |
| Small household appliances | 70% | 50% |
| IT and telecommunication equipment | 75% | 65% |
| Consumer equipment | 75% | 65% |

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|------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Lighting equipment | 70% | 50% |
| Electrical and electronic tools | 70% | 50% |
| Toys, leisure and sport equipment | 70% | 50% |
| Medical devices | After 2008 | After 2008 |
| Monitoring and control instruments | 70% | 50% |
| Automatic dispensers | 80% | 75% |

Schedule WEEE Directive

| Date | Schedule |
|-------------------|--|
| February 13, 2003 | Directive Published in Official Journal of EU |
| August 13, 2004 | Member states implemented national regulations |
| August 13, 2005 | Manufacturers have take back system in place Equipment entering the market is labeled with WEEE symbol |
| December 31, 2006 | Member states ensure that targets for collection, recovery, reuse and recycling are meet |
| December 31, 2008 | Member states are to meet to establish new targets for collection, recovery, reuse and recycling |

Obligations of manufacturers

All equipment, falling in one of the 10 categories, entering the EU after 13 August 2005 must be labeled with the WEEE symbol. Manufacturers must provide refurbishment, treatment and reuse information for each new type of electrical and electronic equipment within one year after such equipment is put one the market.



The Symbol of WEEE