

Fact File 29



Fire Industry Association



The 'Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment' (WEEE) – Update 2

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INTRODUCTION

This Fact File has been prepared to update members on developments since the publication of Fact File 20 which gave the basic requirements of the Directive. The main requirements of WEEE are given in Fact File 12.

THE WEEE DIRECTIVE

The UK Regulations were not published until the end of 2006 and the producer responsibilities came into effect in April 2007.

The Department for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform (BERR) established an independent non-governmental public body on the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations the WEEE Advisory Board (WAB). The WAB consists of 13 individuals from various industry sectors and will provide independent advice for the development of the WEEE system.

The role of the group is to:

- Advise Government on the implementation and supporting infrastructure for the UK WEEE system and identify where improvements are needed to maximise the benefits of the Regulations
- Consider improvements to the Regulations in relation to the infrastructure relationship between the stakeholder communities
- Consider the UK's input into the EU review of the WEEE Directive
- Identify good practice within the WEEE stakeholder community
- Consider and make recommendations on how the UK can move to a system of individual producer responsibility (IPR)

The first meeting of this group was held in April 2008

FIA POSITION

The FIA has reviewed the BFPSA position with regard to the B2B part of the Directive and has concluded that the position agreed by BFPSA is no longer valid and that electronic fire protection equipment is within the scope of the Directive and UK Regulations. This position is similar to that of compatible industries such as the electronic security industry (BSIA). The FIA WEEE statement is given below:

FIA WEEE STATEMENT

The primary purpose of the WEEE Directive and UK Regulations is the control of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) and to require the re-use, recycling and other forms of recovery of such waste, so as to reduce volumes being disposed to landfill or incineration.

In the UK the Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment (Producer Responsibility) Regulations 2006 were laid before Parliament on 12 December 2006 and came into force on 2 January 2007. They require obligated producers to label all EEE products from 1 April 2007 and to pay for the recovery and recycling of WEEE from 1 July 2007.

In 2006, the BFPSA established a position on WEEE where it concluded that commercial (B2B) fire detection and alarm products and electronic products for fixed suppression, which are included in Category 9 in the Directive, fell outside the scope of the Directive since they are products installed as fixed installations. The statement recommended that members could voluntarily comply with Directive and UK regulations, but there was no compulsion to do so.

Since that position was taken, the UK WEEE Regulations have been published and have been in force for some time. Further discussions with regard to what is considered a 'fixed installation' have been held and it has been recognised that the definition of fixed installations is still not clear. However, what is clear from our discussions, is that in the view of UK and EU regulators, electronic components of fixed fire protection systems are not considered 'fixed installations'.

In addition to this 'regulator's view' there is an expectation from users of our products for the industry to have high environmental credentials. This is reflected in the FIA leadership statement.

As a result, the FIA has concluded that all electronic components of fixed fire protection systems, both for domestic (B2C) and Commercial (B2B) markets are within the scope of the Directive and UK Regulations, and producers of this equipment should join a compliance scheme as soon as practicable.

As part of the review of the WEEE Regulations the FIA have identified three UK compliance schemes that best meet the requirements of our industry. Details of these schemes can be found on the FIA Website. Of course members are free to choose their own scheme from those available in the UK.

A FIA Fact File which explains the technical background to this decision and the implications for all members including the servicing and installation members will be published shortly.

The result of this changed view is that manufacturers of all electronic fire alarm products for the commercial market are now obliged to comply with requirements of the Directive including affixing the 'wheelie bin' logo on products for sale/use within the UK. They will also have to take steps to ensure the correct disposal of the products and provide DTI with sales data.

The FIA has held discussions with a number of possible compliance schemes, three of which have a good fit to the requirements of FIA members and their details are given in appendix A. Other schemes are available and FIA members are free to use which ever scheme best suits their requirements.

With regard to the domestic sector (B2C) many FIA smoke alarm manufacturing members have registered with scheme 3 from the list in appendix A and the FIA Self Contained Smoke Alarms Group (SCSAG) have drafted guidance for the recycling centres on how to handle ionisation detectors. The group will continue to monitor progress within the scheme.

Installers and maintainers of fire detection and alarm electrical equipment, who are not manufacturers, will need to dispose of WEEE materials through the appropriate recycling schemes that plug into the B2B collection and recycling arrangements arranged by the relevant manufacturer. At the present time, recycling centres seem to be slow in establishing clear operational parameters for this, so the onus is on the installer/maintainer to ensure that the waste equipment is delivered to an official recycling centre.

Our understanding is that it is then the responsibility of the recycling centre to pick up on the relevant manufacturers' disposal arrangements, which will have been financed through the WEEE collection scheme.

As further clarity develops on this subject, the FIA will advise member companies accordingly.

The FIA will review the Directive, UK Regulations and compliance options and if there is any change to the regulation, compliance and applicable schemes FIA members will be notified.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

- **For copies of the Directives and other associated information:**
<http://www.berr.gov.uk/sectors/sustainability/weee/page30269.html>
- **Relevant information provided by Orgalime:**
<http://www.orgalime.org/>

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 not an indication of preference)

B2B Compliance

Emerald House, Cabin Lane, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 2DZ

Contact: Carl Krüger • carlk@b2bcompliance.org.uk • 01691 676 124 (option1)

www.b2bcompliance.org.uk

DHL(BSIA DHL WEEE Compliance)

2020 Middlemarch, Business Park, Siskin Drive, Coventry, CV3 4FJ

Contact: Sioban Wall, WEEE Commercial Manager • sioban.wall@dhl.com Tel: 02476 21 41 28

Mobile: 07768 50 77 31 • www.dhl.co.uk/weee

REPIC

REPIC Limited, REPIC House, Waterfold Business Park, Waterfold, Bury BL9 7BR, UK.

Contact: Phil Morton • info@repic.co.uk • 0845 660 7929 • www.repic.co.uk

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