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Producer Responsibility Unit

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/topics/producer-responsibility.htm>



WEEE Directive - update

- Currently preparing for UK implementation of WEEE Directive
- Three phases of stakeholder consultation, including on draft legislation and guidance
- Recent policy announcement and timetable for implementation



Policy Announcement

Made on 24 March. Ministerial decisions on a number of key issues, including:

- Timing of implementation
- Registration, allocation and National Clearing House
- Take-back - retailer compliance scheme



Timetable

- Transpose into national law in summer 2005
- Marking requirements – 13 August 2005
- Producer and retailer obligations to start in January 2006



Next steps – immediate future

- Finalise Regulations and non-statutory guidance
- Consultation on permitting arrangements
- Consultation on Agencies' fees (cost recovery for their registration and monitoring activity)
- Further announcements intended: producer registration, data reporting, compliance reporting arrangements; retail take-back



Next steps (continued)

- Transpose Directive's obligations into national law in summer
- Registration/approval of compliance schemes
- Household WEEE: allocation of obligations to all producers; allocation of sites to larger producers/compliance schemes during autumn
- Implementation – January 2006
- Intended WEEE taskforces: B2B, IPR, reuse



Retail take-back

- Retailer compliance scheme
- New proposal from BRC - UK collection network
- Government expects to reach swift conclusion to discussions with BRC
- Intend announcement on approach to take-back in light of outcome



National Clearing House

- Practical challenges of original NCH proposal
- Small obligated producers, civic amenity sites
- How to deliver functions proposed for NCH most effectively ?



'no frills' NCH

- Alternative pared down approach to registration and allocation
- A simplified approach. Gets system up and running for first three years. EU review of the WEEE Directive in 2008



Allocation and Registration

Main points of a "no frills" approach:

- Environment Agencies to register
- Hybrid approach to allocation, which mixes
 - physical allocation of WEEE separately collected at collection sites to large producers/schemes; and
 - financial settlement for small producers



Allocation and settlement

- Much work to be done on the details
- Determining allocations from market share;
- Mechanism for financial settlement for smaller producers; and
- Will continue discussing with stakeholders



Non Household WEEE

- Obligations: "historic", "new" WEEE
- Producer obligated; except for historic WEEE where user is not replacing (user then has obligation)
- ..But scope for negotiation between the parties



Non Household WEEE

- European legislation clear on non household obligations, but poses challenges in practical application
- Aims to incorporate consideration of WEEE obligations into commercial relationships
- Implications for contractual, supply chain relations
- Aims to foster existing take-back activity, consistent with Directive's obligations
- Stakeholder taskforce to consider practical detail of B2B WEEE

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