

REVISED CORRESPONDENTS' GUIDELINES No 1

Subject: Shipments of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)

1. These Correspondents' guidelines represent the common understanding of all Member States on how Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006 on shipments of waste (Waste Shipment Regulation – WSR) should be interpreted. The guidelines were agreed by the correspondents at a meeting on 14/15 June 2007 organised pursuant to Article 57 of Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006. They are not legally binding. The binding interpretation of Community law is the exclusive competence of the European Court of Justice. The guidelines apply from 12 July 2007 and should be reviewed at the latest five years from the above date and, if necessary, revised.

1. Introduction

2. These Correspondents' guidelines provide information for:

- a) persons arranging shipments of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)¹;
- b) holders of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE)² arranging transboundary transports of this equipment who wish to avoid non-compliance with the WSR; and
- c) authorities responsible for the enforcement of the WSR.

3. The control procedures that apply depend, in the first instance, on whether the material or equipment in question is waste as defined in Article 1(a) of Directive 2006/12/EC (Waste Framework Directive - WFD), in national legislation or national interpretation. If the competent authorities of dispatch and of destination cannot agree on the classification as regards the distinction between waste and non-waste, the subject matter is, in accordance with Article 28(1) WSR, to be treated as if it were waste.

4. Whether or not a substance is discarded as a waste, and when waste ceases to be waste is determined on a case by case basis and the interpretation of the law is ultimately a matter for the courts.

5. If the material is a waste, the control procedures depend on whether the shipment of the waste has to be notified or not (see section 3) under the WSR (see Reference 1 in Appendix 3), whether the waste is destined for recovery or disposal, and whether there are additional controls in the country of destination.

2. Distinction between EEE and WEEE

6. EEE becomes WEEE if its holder discards it, or intends or is required to discard it. To make this judgement it is necessary to examine the history of an item on a case by case basis. However, there are characteristics of electrical and electronic equipment that are likely to indicate whether it is waste or not.

7. Where the holder of the material claims that he intends to ship or is shipping used EEE and not WEEE, the following should be provided to back up this claim to an authority on its request:

¹ WEEE, according to the definition in Article 3(b) of Directive 2002/96/EC on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), means electrical or electronic equipment which is waste within the meaning of Article 1(a) of Directive 2006/12/EC, including all components, subassemblies and consumables which are part of the product at the time of discarding.

² See definition in Article 3(a) of Directive 2002/96/EC.

- a) a copy of the invoice and contract relating to the sale and/or transfer of ownership of the EEE which states that the equipment is for direct re-use and fully functional;
- b) evidence of evaluation/testing in the form of copy of the records (certificate of testing – proof of functional capability) on every item within the consignment and a protocol containing all record information (see below);
- c) a declaration made by the holder who arranges the transport of the EEE that none of the material or equipment within the consignment is waste as defined by Article 1(a) WFD, and
- d) sufficient packaging to protect it from damage during transportation, loading and unloading.

8. EEE would not normally be considered waste

- a) where the criteria in paragraph 7 (a) to (d) are met and if it is fully functioning and is not destined for any of the operations listed in Annex II of the WFD (recovery or disposal operations) and is directly reused for the purpose for which it was originally intended or presented for sale or exported for the purpose of being put back to direct reuse or sold to end consumers for such reuse, or
- b) where the criteria in paragraph 7 (c) and (d) are met and if it is sent back as defective batches for repair to the producer or repair centres (e. g. under warranty) with the intention of re-use.

9. EEE would normally be considered waste (see example in [Appendix 1](#)) if:

- a) the product is not complete - essential parts are missing;
- b) it shows physical damage that impairs its functionality or safety, as defined in relevant standards;
- c) the packaging for protecting it from damage during transport and loading and unloading operations is insufficient;
- d) the appearance is generally worn or damaged, thus reducing the marketability of the item(s);
- e) the item has among its constituent part(s) anything that is required to be discarded or is prohibited under community or national legislation³;
- f) the EEE is destined for disposal or recycling instead of re-use;
- g) there is no regular market for the EEE (see further indicators); or
- h) it is old or out-dated EEE destined for cannibalization (to gain spare parts).

10. Prior to any transboundary transport of EEE the holder should be in a position to provide information to any relevant state authorities (e. g. customs, police or environmental agencies) that proves that the above criteria for EEE are met. Failure to meet these criteria would generally indicate to the relevant authorities that the material is WEEE and a precautionary approach to environmental protection would be taken in these circumstances, notably in cases where the holder has to prove that the equipment was not waste; in some Member States, however, it remains for the state authorities to prove that the equipment at issue is WEEE.

11. The following are the recommended steps that dealers in used EEE are advised to take in order to demonstrate that the items being shipped are used EEE rather than WEEE:

³ E. g. asbestos, PCBs, CFCs.

Step 1: Testing

12. The tests that should be conducted depend on the kind of EEE (see Annex IB of Directive 2002/96/EC on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE Directive - see Reference 2 in Appendix 3). Functionality should be tested and hazardous substances should be evaluated.
13. The completion of a visual inspection without testing functionality is unlikely to be sufficient.
14. For most of the used EEE a functionality test of the key functions is sufficient.
15. Results of evaluation and testing should be recorded and a record (certificate of testing, displaying/stating functional capability) should be placed on each tested EEE.

Step 2: Record

16. The record should be fixed securely but not permanently on either the EEE itself (if not packed) or on the packaging so it can be read without unpacking the equipment.
17. The record should contain the following information:
 - a) Name of item (Name of the equipment according to Annex IB and number of category according to Annex IA of the WEEE Directive);
 - b) Identification Number of the item (type no.);
 - c) Year of Production (if available);
 - d) Name and address of the company responsible for evidence of functionality;
 - e) Result of tests (e. g. naming defective parts and defect or indication of full functionality);
 - f) Kind of tests performed.
18. The protocol of testing and evaluation should accompany the transport.

Step 3: Packaging

19. Insufficient packaging for protecting items from damage during transportation, loading and unloading operations is an indication that an item may be waste. In general, the observation of poor packaging should lead enforcement agencies/authorities to make further enquiries regarding an item being transported.

3. Shipments of WEEE

20. Shipments of WEEE are regulated by the WSR. In certain circumstances the WSR provides for shipments of waste to be subject to additional controls under the national legislation of Member States or other countries of import; for example there may be a prohibition on shipments of waste destined for disposal in certain Member States or other countries of import.

3.1 Shipments of WEEE destined for disposal

3.1.1 Shipments within the EU

21. All such shipments of waste within the EU are subject to the procedure of prior written notification and consent referred to in the WSR. Member States may generally prohibit shipments of waste to or from other Member States for disposal and enquiries should be made by the relevant competent authorities to establish if the planned shipment for disposal is allowed under national legislation.

3.1.2 Exports from the EU

22. All exports from the EU destined for disposal are prohibited (except waste shipments to EFTA states being Parties to the Basel Convention).

3.1.3 Imports into the EU

23. In principle, imports from outside the EU destined for disposal are allowed, unless the country of dispatch is not a Party to the Basel Convention. However, EU Member States may prohibit such imports where they consider that there are sound environmental reasons for doing so. All imports for disposal are subject to the procedure of prior written notification and consent referred to in the WSR.

3.2 Shipments of WEEE destined for recovery

3.2.1 Shipments within the EU

24. Shipments within the EU may be subject to either the procedure of prior written notification and consent referred to in the WSR or they may be subject to general information requirements (see Art. 18 of the WSR). The applicable controls are determined by the classification of the WEEE in question in the relevant lists of waste annexed to the WSR. The WSR lists of waste differ from those in the European Waste List (EWL) in respect of shipments within the Community. A precautionary approach should be taken to the classification of WEEE. If it is not clear that the WEEE in question is covered by an entry in Annex III (“Green” listed waste), IIIA or IIIB of WSR, the shipment should be notified.

3.2.2 Exports from the EU

25. The controls that apply depend on the classification of the waste (‘hazardous’ – ‘non hazardous’ (see [Appendix 2](#)) and the provisions applicable to the country of destination⁴. Exports of hazardous waste for recovery to countries to which the OECD⁵ Decision does not apply are prohibited⁶. Again, the lists that determine the levels of control are as annexed to the WSR and reference is made to the EWL for exports to countries to which the OECD Decision does not apply under specific circumstances as set out in the WSR⁷.

3.2.3 Imports into the EU

26. In principle, imports from outside the EU destined for recovery are allowed, unless the country of dispatch is not a Party to the Basel Convention (except where the country is a country to which the OECD Decision applies). The classification of the waste (see [Appendix 2](#)) determines whether the procedure of prior written notification and consent referred to in the WSR or general information requirements (see Art. 18 of the WSR for waste listed in Annex III, IIIA and IIIB) apply for such shipments.

4. Controls

27. Inspections are undertaken by state authorities (e. g. police, customs, and inspectors) at facilities and during the transport. Those persons shipping used EEE should ensure that the

⁴ See Commission Regulation (EC) No 801/2007 (see [Reference 5](#) in [Appendix 3](#)).

⁵ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

⁶ See Annex V of the WSR.

⁷ Shipments of outdated refrigeration and other equipment (air conditioning systems etc.) containing CFCs, HFCs, HCFCs and FCs (to third countries) for the purpose of re-use are prohibited pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 2037/2000 on ozone depleting substances.

equipment is accompanied by proof of adequate testing⁸, and that it is appropriately packaged in order to demonstrate that the items concerned are not WEEE. Where it is asserted that non-hazardous WEEE is being shipped, those responsible for the shipment should ensure that it is accompanied by evidence of appropriate testing to demonstrate that the waste that is being shipped is non-hazardous.

28. For practical reasons of control, every load (e. g. shipping container, lorry) of used EEE should be accompanied by a

- a) CMR document,
- b) proof of the evaluation/testing in form of copy of the records and a protocol containing all testing and recording information (see [Appendix 1](#)) on each item; and
- c) declaration of the liable person on its responsibility.

29. In the absence of appropriate documentation and packaging state authorities are likely to presume that an item is hazardous WEEE and, in the absence of consents in accordance with the requirements of the WSR, presume that the load comprises an illegal shipment. In these circumstances the relevant competent authorities will be informed and the load will be dealt with in accordance with Articles 24 and 25 of the WSR. In the majority of cases those responsible for the shipment will have to take back the waste to the country of dispatch at their own expense and may be liable to a criminal sanction. In those Member States where the burden is on the state authorities to prove the items are WEEE rather than EEE, absence of the appropriate documentation and packaging is likely to lead to significant delays to the onward transport of the waste whilst the necessary investigations are carried out to establish the status of the items being shipped.

⁸ Certificate of testing, displaying/stating functional capability and issued on the condition only that the EEE can be used directly without major repair; see section 1.

An example of when EEE would normally be considered waste

IT equipment may be defined as waste if it has any of the following:

1. A defect that materially affects its functionality. For example it does not:
 - a) power up;
 - b) perform BIOS or internal set-up routines or self-checks fail;
 - c) have a functioning motherboard;
 - d) communicate with the host;
 - e) print/scan/copy a test page or the page is not identifiable or readable or is blurred or lined;
or
 - f) read, write or record/burn.
2. A physical damage that impairs its functionality or safety, as defined in relevant standards. Physical damage includes inter alia:
 - a) a screen that has physical damage, such as burn marks, or is broken, cracked, heavily scratched or marked, or that materially distorts image quality;
 - b) a signal (input) cable has been cut off or cannot be easily replaced without recourse to opening the case;
 - c) a faulty Hard Disk Drive or a faulty RAM or a faulty Video Card; or
 - d) batteries containing lead, mercury or cadmium or batteries containing hazardous liquid cathodes that are unable to be charged or to hold power.
3. An insufficient packaging to protect it from damage during transportation, loading and unloading operations.

Classification of waste destined for recovery

1. The approach to classification of waste under the WSR is partly governed by whether the waste is destined for a Member State of the EU (see [Reference 3](#) in [Appendix 3](#)), a country to which the OECD Decision applies (for OECD member countries, see [Reference 4](#) in [Appendix 3](#)) or a country to which the OECD Decision does not apply.

2. Section A details the classification process for shipments to Member States of the EU and countries to which the OECD Decision applies. Section B details the two stage classification process that applies to exports to countries to which the OECD Decision does not apply; firstly to determine whether or not the export is potentially permitted (Stage 1) and, secondly, if potentially permitted, to determine the controls applicable to the export (Stage 2). Concerning the classification of WEEE according to Annex IV part I note (c), it is also referred to Correspondents' guidelines No 4.

A. Shipments within the EU and from the EU to countries to which the OECD Decision applies

3. The Annexes to the WSR (see [Reference 1](#) in [Appendix 3](#)) provide waste lists to be used for the classification of waste destined for recovery. For the classification of WEEE Annexes III, IIIA, IIIB, IV and IVA of the WSR are relevant. These are referred to as:

- a) The 'green' list (Annex III)⁹ containing wastes not subject to the procedure of prior written notification and consent (Green listed wastes which are shipped have to be accompanied by the document contained in Annex VII according to Article 18 of the WSR),
- b) Mixtures of green listed wastes (Annex IIIA),
- c) Additional green listed wastes (Annex IIIB),
- d) The 'amber' list (Annex IV) containing wastes subject to the procedure of prior written notification and consent, and
- e) Wastes listed in Annex III but subject to the procedure of prior written notification and consent (Annex IVA).

4. In cases of doubt the competent authority of dispatch should be consulted. [Box 1](#) lists the main categories relating to WEEE that should be considered when attempting to categorise WEEE that has not been subject to any sort of processing prior to shipment. Processed fractions of WEEE may fall within other categories contained in the Annexes to the WSR.

⁹ Green listed wastes that are contaminated with hazardous materials may be classified as waste subject to the procedure of prior written notification and consent.
With respect to some Member countries, transition rules according to Article 63 WSR apply.
Wastes that do not feature in any of the lists are regarded as unlisted and are wastes subject to the procedure of prior written notification and consent.

Box 1 Categories relating to WEEE in the Waste Shipment Regulation

Annex III

GC010 Electrical assemblies consisting only of metals or alloys

GC020 Electronic scrap (e.g. printed circuit boards, electronic components, wire, etc.) and reclaimed electronic components suitable for base and precious metal recovery

Annex IV

A1030 Waste having as constituents or contaminants any of the following:

- Arsenic; arsenic compounds
- Mercury; mercury compounds
- Thallium; Thallium compounds

A1160 Waste lead-acid batteries, whole or crushed

A1170 Unsorted waste batteries excluding mixtures of only list B batteries. Waste batteries not specified on list B containing Annex I constituents to an extent to render them hazardous

A1180 Waste electrical and electronic assemblies or scrap^{•)} containing components such as accumulators and other batteries included on list A, mercury-switches, glass from cathode-ray tubes and other activated glass and PCB-capacitors, or contaminated with Annex I constituents (e.g. cadmium, mercury, lead, polychlorinated biphenyl) to an extent that they possess any of the characteristics contained in Annex III (note the related entry on list B, B1110)^{*)}

A2010 Glass waste from cathode-ray tubes and other activated glasses

A2050 Waste asbestos (dust and fibres)

AC150 Chlorofluorocarbons

A3180 Wastes, substances and articles containing, consisting of or contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), polychlorinated terphenyl (PCT), polychlorinated naphthalene (PCN) or polybrominated biphenyl (PBB), or any other polybrominated analogues of these compounds, at a concentration level of 50 mg/kg or more^{•)}

Waste not listed (Art. 3(1)(b) of the WSR)

- WEEE, or parts of WEEE, not listed elsewhere

^{•)} This entry does not include scrap assemblies from electric power generation.

^{*)} PCBs are at a concentration level of 50 mg/kg or more¹⁰.

^{•)} The 50 mg/kg level is considered to be an internationally practical level for all wastes. However, many individual countries have established lower regulatory levels (e.g. 20 mg/kg) for specific wastes.

B. Exports to countries to which the OECD Decision does not apply (application of the export prohibition)

5. For the classification of WEEE, Annex V to the WSR or the competent authority should be consulted. Box 2 lists the main categories relating to WEEE in Part 1 of Annex V. There is a two stage process to be completed before waste may be exported to countries to which the OECD Decision does not apply.

¹⁰ The national legislation on the determination of PCBs must be taken into consideration (e. g. 6 or 7 PCB-congeners; sometimes multiplication of the sum of these congeners with factor 5 is required), especially considering results of analyses carried out in non-EU countries or compliance with limit values required in non-EU-countries.

Box 2 Categories in Part 1 of Annex V relating to WEEE

Part 1 List A (prohibited for export)

See Box 1 under Annex IV

Part 1 List B (potentially permitted for export)

- B1040** Scrap assemblies from electronic power generation not contaminated with lubricating oil, PCB or PCT to an extent to render them hazardous
- B1070** Waste of copper and copper alloys in dispersible form, unless they contain Annex I constituents to an extent that they exhibit Annex III characteristics
- B1090** Waste batteries conforming to a specification, excluding those made with lead, cadmium or mercury
- B1110** Electrical and electronic assemblies:
- Electronic assemblies consisting only of metals or alloys
 - Waste electrical and electronic assemblies or scrap^{*)} (including printed circuit boards) not containing components such as accumulators and other batteries included on list A, mercury-switches, glass from cathode-ray tubes and activated glass and PCB-capacitors, or not contaminated with Annex I constituents (e.g. cadmium, mercury, lead, polychlorinated biphenyl) or from which these have been removed, to an extent that they do not possess any of the characteristics contained in Annex III (note the related entry on list A, A1180)
 - Electrical and electronic assemblies (including printed circuit boards, electronic components and wires) destined for direct re-use^{*)} and not for recycling or final disposal^{•)}

^{*)} This entry does not include scrap from electrical power generation.

^{•)} Re-use can include repair, refurbishment or upgrading, but not major re-assembly.

^{•)} In some countries these materials destined for direct re-use are not considered wastes.

Stage 1

6. Annex V to the WSR lists the wastes which fall under the prohibition of exports of hazardous wastes to countries to which the OECD Decision does not apply. This stage determines only whether a proposed export to a country to which the OECD Decision does not apply is prohibited or potentially permitted.

7. Annex V has three parts:

- a) Part 1 is divided into List A and List B. If a waste is listed on List A, then its export to countries to which the OECD Decision does not apply is prohibited.
- b) If a waste is on List B, its export to countries to which the OECD Decision does not apply is potentially permitted. If a waste on List B is being classified as hazardous by reference to EU criteria in a Member State in accordance with Article 36(4) and (5) of the WSR, the export of this waste to a country to which the OECD decision does not apply is prohibited.
- c) Parts 2 and 3 of Annex V apply only if a waste does not appear in either List A or List B of Part 1. If a waste is identified as hazardous in Part 2 of Annex V (by being marked by an asterisk) or is listed in Part 3 of Annex V then its export to countries to which the OECD Decision does not apply is prohibited. If a waste is not marked with an asterisk in Part 2 of Annex V then its export to countries to which the OECD Decision does not apply is potentially permitted. If a waste does not appear on the lists in either Part 2 or 3 to Annex V,

then its export to countries to which the OECD Decision does not apply is potentially permitted and subject the procedure of prior written notification and consent.

8. In **summary**, waste may potentially be exported to countries to which the OECD Decision does not apply if:

- a) it appears on Part 1, List B, or
- b) if not listed on List B, its export is not otherwise prohibited by virtue of its listing in Annex V,

provided that, in both cases, an export prohibition in the Member State of dispatch does not apply by virtue of the waste being exceptionally classified as hazardous by reference to EU criteria in accordance with Article 36(4) and (5) of the WSR.

Stage 2

9. This stage covers exports of waste not subject to the export prohibition to countries to which the OECD Decision does not apply. This stage only needs to be considered if Stage 1 indicates that the waste export is potentially permitted.

10. If the waste is not described by any entry in Annex III, its export is subject to the procedure of prior written notification and consent referred to in the WSR.

11. For waste listed in Annex III or IIIA, the specific requirements will depend on the waste category and country of destination. The specific requirements for each country are listed in Commission Regulation (EC) No 801/2007 (see Reference 5 in Appendix 3).

12. The competent authority may be consulted in cases of uncertainty. However, Box 1 lists those entries most likely to be relevant.

13. Each country has the following options:

- a) a prohibition of the import of a particular waste;
- b) a procedure of prior written notification and consent as described in Article 35 of the WSR;
or
- c) no control in the country of destination.

14. With regard to shipments to the new EU Member States see Article 63 of the WSR.

References

1. Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006 of the European Parliament and the Council of 14 June 2006 on shipments of waste (Waste Shipment Regulation)
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/shipments/index.htm>
2. Directive 2002/96/EC on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE Directive)
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/weee_index.htm
3. EU Member States
http://europa.eu/abc/european_countries/index_en.htm
4. OECD countries and non-OECD countries
http://www.oecd.org/countrieslist/0,3025,en_33873108_33844430_1_1_1_1_1,00.html
5. Commission Regulation (EC) No 801/2007 of 6 July 2007 concerning the export for recovery of certain waste listed in Annex III or IIIA to Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006 to certain countries to which the OECD Decision on the control of transboundary movement of wastes does not apply
<http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/global/environment/waste.htm>