

Tradeshows and Expos

How to comply with the WEEE and Batteries Regulations

Guidance for organisers and exhibitors



The Environmental Protection Agency has a lead role in the enforcement of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and Batteries regulations in Ireland. The regulations are in place to ensure that these products are managed safely when they become waste.

Are you compliant with these regulations?

If you are an **Exhibitor**, the regulations place obligations on manufacturers, importers and distributors of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) and batteries, (including products incorporating batteries). Under the regulations, a **Producer** is not just the manufacturer of a product but is also anyone who is placing EEE and/or batteries on the market on a professional basis for the first time in Ireland. This includes importers of EEE and/or batteries into Ireland.

If you are placing products on the market in Ireland for the first time by displaying them for sale at tradeshows, expos or festivals etc. then you may be a producer.

All producers must be validly registered with the Producer Register Limited (PRL). Registered producers will be issued with a Producer Registration Number (e.g. 123WB) which must be displayed on all invoices and other associated sales documentation. Any producer that is not validly registered is prohibited from placing their product(s) on the market in Ireland. Therefore, sale or advertising for sale of imported product by exhibitors who are unregistered producers is in an offence under the WEEE and/or batteries regulation.

The EPA can issue a 'fixed payment notice' (FPN) for certain offences under the WEEE or batteries regulations, including failure to register as a producer. A fixed payment notice is similar to a fine. The FPN for failure to register as a producer is €2,000.

More information on EEE or battery **producer** obligations is available on the EPA website.

If you are a **Distributor** (e.g. a seller, retailer or wholesaler) of EEE and/or batteries at an event, then you have obligations as a distributor under the WEEE and/or batteries regulations.

More information on EEE or battery **distributor** obligations is available on the EPA website.

If you are the **Event Organiser**, you have obligations under the Batteries regulations. As the event organiser you are required to ensure that all battery producers at your event are in possession of a valid Producer Registration Number. If you fail to ensure this you are then responsible for registering each non-registered producer, arranging the environmentally sound management of waste batteries, achieving the prescribed collection and recycling targets and preparing and submitting waste management plans and reports to the EPA. A summary of legal obligations for producers and distributors is included in the table below.

The WEEE and Batteries Regulations in Ireland - Who does what?

Who	Role	Further information
Consumers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take care of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) so that others may use it when you have finished with it. Bring back waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE = unusable waste EEE) and waste batteries to a retailer free of charge. Bring WEEE and waste batteries to a local civic amenity site if not brought back to a retailer. 	
Producers/Importers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Register with the Producer Register Limited (PRL). Finance the take back and safe management of WEEE and waste batteries. Self-comply or join an approved compliance scheme (WEEE Ireland or ERP Ireland) - See below. Mark products with crossed-out wheeled bin symbol for WEEE and Batteries. 	www.producerregister.ie www.epa.ie
Distributors/Retailers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Register premises with compliance scheme or local authority. Comply with requirements regarding statutory notices. Display visible Environmental Management Cost (vEMC) on applicable products. Take back household WEEE free of charge when replacing on a one-for-one, like-for-like basis. Take-back waste batteries of similar type to those sold (free of charge). Store, transport and dispose of WEEE and waste batteries as set out in the Regulations. 	www.epa.ie
Local authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local enforcement responsibilities (particularly in relation to retailer obligations). Management of civic amenity sites. 	
Environmental Protection Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leads national enforcement of the WEEE and Batteries Regulations. 	www.epa.ie
Producer Register Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National producer registration body. Registration of producers of EEE and/or Batteries. Determination of market share of individual producers. Determine the category/sub-category of EEE to which a product belongs. Notify Environmental Protection Agency where there is evidence of non-compliance. 	www.producerregister.ie
WEEE Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved compliance scheme. 	www.weeeireland.ie www.recyclefree.ie
ERP Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved compliance scheme. 	www.erp-recycling.ie