



The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations and the Batteries Regulations

Who does what?

This document is for guidance only. It does not purport to be and should not be considered a legal interpretation of the legislation referred to herein. You are advised to refer to the relevant legislation for comprehensive information on legal obligations.

Introduction

This document provides basic guidance on the roles and obligations of the various stakeholders and organisations that operate under the WEEE and Batteries and Regulations.

Table 1 – Consumers, Producers and Retailers

Who?	What do they have to do?
Consumers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take care of your EEE products as others might want to reuse them. • Bring back waste EEE (WEEE) to a retailer free of charge when buying a new similar product. • Bring back waste batteries to a battery retailer free of charge. • Bring back WEEE and waste batteries to your local civic amenity site for recycling, if you don't bring them back to a retailer. • Never put WEEE or waste batteries in a waste disposal bin.
EEE/Battery Producers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register every year with Producer Register Limited (PRL). • Finance the management of WEEE and waste batteries, by either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Self-complying, or ○ Joining an approved compliance scheme (WEEE Ireland or ERP Ireland). • If self-complying – Collect, store and manage WEEE and waste batteries as required by the WEEE and Batteries Regulations. • Ensure that all new EEE and batteries being placed on the market are labelled with the crossed-out wheeled-bin symbol. • Report quantities of EEE/batteries placed on the Irish Market to the WEEE Blackbox (www.WEEEBlackbox.ie) • Ensure that the collection, recovery and recycling targets for WEEE and waste batteries are being met.
Retailers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register your premises with a compliance scheme or with a local authority. • Only sell EEE and/or batteries from a registered EEE/battery producer. • Display the statutory notice which tells customers that you will take back WEEE and waste batteries. • Take back WEEE on a one-for-one, like-for-like basis, when they are purchasing a new similar product. • Take back waste batteries free of charge. No new purchase is necessary. • Display visible Environmental Management Costs (vEMCs) on applicable products. • Ensure that the take back, storage and transport of WEEE and waste batteries is in accordance with the WEEE and Batteries Regulations. • Keep records of WEEE take back and collection.

Table 2 – Other Stakeholders

Who?	What is their role?
EPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leads national enforcement of the WEEE and the Batteries Regulations. • Enforcement of self-complying producer obligations (B2B EEE and batteries). • Authorisation and enforcement of EPA licences. • Enforcement of obligations on producers and retailers.
Local Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorisation and enforcement of facility permits and certificates of registration. • Management of civic amenity sites. • Registration of retail outlets. • Enforcement of obligations on retailers.
Government Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepares, issues and amends the legislation. • Chairs the national stakeholder group (WEEE Battery Monitoring Group).
Producer Register Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National registration body for EEE and battery producers. • Registration of EEE and battery producers. • Determine the categories/sub-categories to which EEE products belong. • Determination of market share of individual producers (through “Black box”) for calculating registration and compliance costs for producers. • Notify EPA where there is evidence of non-compliance for producers.
Compliance Schemes WEEE Ireland ERP Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved compliance schemes offering compliance services for producers and retailers. • Services for members include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Collecting and managing their WEEE and waste batteries. ○ Meeting statutory targets for recycling and recovery of WEEE. ○ Reporting to the EPA. ○ Maintaining records.

Table 3 – Who to ask?

Who?	They can answer questions on....
EPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal obligations of producers and retailers. • Annual submissions by self-complying producers.
Local Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retailer registration. • Take back of WEEE and waste batteries at retail outlets. • Statutory notices for retail outlets.
Government Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy and legislation.
Producer Register Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Producer registration and associated costs. • Scoping of EEE products. • Reporting to the WEEE Blackbox.
Compliance Schemes WEEE Ireland ERP Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Producer and retailer registration. • Collection services – WEEE and batteries. • Compliance and compliance services.

Important note

These lists are indicative and are therefore not full descriptions of the roles and responsibilities of each of the stakeholders implementing the WEEE and Battery Regulations. For further information on producer and retailer responsibilities please refer directly to the European Union (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 149 of 2014) and the European Union (Batteries and Accumulators) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 283 of 2014) as amended.

More guidance is also available on the EPA website.