



European Union Network for the
Implementation and Enforcement
of Environmental Law

WEEE Directive Implementation and Enforcement

Inspection Guideline on Annex VI of the WEEE Directive



Introduction

In this Project Abstract the focus is on Waste of electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) Annex IV. There will be separate Project Abstracts on Brominated Flame Retardants (BRFs) in plastic waste and on the classification of WEEE.

Executive Summary

Waste of electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) is one of the fastest growing waste streams in the EU, with some 12,3 Mt (16,6 kg/inh) generated in the EU 2016 (and 44,7 Mt worldwide), and expected to grow to more than 52,2 Mt in 2021 worldwide (The global E-waste Monitor UNU-IAS, 2017).

WEEE contains a complex mixture of materials and components, which are partly hazardous. Not properly managed WEEE can cause major environmental and health problems. In addition, the production of electronics requires the use of scarce and expensive resources. The improvement of collection, treatment and recycling and avoiding illegal export (to countries with poor treatment facilities) of electronics at the end of their life is essential to contribute to a circular economy.

In 2017 and 2018 the focus was on brominated flame retardants in WEEE plastic, on Annex VI of the WEEE Directive (minimum requirements for shipments) and the classification of WEEE.

TARGET GROUP

- Environmental authorities
- Customs and Police
- Other enforcement authorities dealing with the WEEE Directive

EU LEGISLATION

- European Waste Shipment Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006
- Directive 2002/95/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 January 2003 on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (RoHS)
- Directive 2011/65/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2011 on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (RoHS recast)
- Directive 2012/19/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2012 on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)
- The Basel Convention

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In 2017 two questionnaires have been send out to the participants, one on Annex VI and one on BFRs. In June 2017 a workshop was held to discuss the outcome of the questionnaires and to present and discuss best practices. In 2018 another workshop was held, discussing BFRs in WEEE plastic, a draft guideline on the inspections of Annex VI of the WEEE Directive, and a draft document on the classification of WEEE.

Summary of the [report](#) Inspection Guideline on Annex VI of the WEEE Directive

Annex VI of the WEEE Directive gives Member States tools to fight illegal export of waste more effectively. Annex VI requires exporters to test and provide documents on the nature of their shipments when the shipments run the risk of being waste.

Although Annex VI gives more tools, there are still elements, which Member States can interpret (e.g. when is testing done properly and the classification) and enforce differently. Different interpretation and enforcement will cause effects like port hopping and discussions on return shipments.

One of the aim of this project was to improve the enforcement of illegal shipments of WEEE to countries with poor treatment facilities (African and Asian countries) by creating a guideline for a more uniform interpretation and enforcement of Annex VI of the WEEE Directive. This [document](#) contains the Inspection Guideline on Annex VI of the WEEE Directive.

LINKS

- [Report Implementation and Enforcement WEEE Directive – Annex IV \(2018\)](#)

KEY WORDS

- Waste and TFS
- WEEE Directive
- BFRs
- WEEE plastic
- Classification