



European Union Network for the  
Implementation and Enforcement  
of Environmental Law

## WEEE Directive Implementation and Enforcement *Classification of WEEE*



### Introduction

In this Project Abstract the focus is on the classification of waste of electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). There will be separate Project Abstracts on brominated flame-retardants (BFR) in WEEE plastic and on WEEE Annex VI.

### 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.

### 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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For the year 2017 and 2018 is chosen to focus this project on brominated flame retardants in WEEE plastic, on Annex VI of the WEEE Directive (minimum requirements for shipments) and the classification of WEEE. In 2017 two questionnaires have been send out to the participants, one on Annex VI and one on BFR's.

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 BFR's in WEEE plastic, a draft guideline on the inspections of Annex VI of the WEEE Directive, and draft document on the classification of WEEE. In [this report](#) 2018 we will focus on WEEE classification. There will be separate guidance documents on Annex VI and BFR's in WEEE plastic.

### Conclusions regarding WEEE classification

Most participants of the project classified the substances and components from the dismantling of WEEE in the same way. However, with regard to some components there are quite considerable differences. See also Chapter 3 of this report with the outcomes of the survey.

For waste shipment inspections it is very important to agree within the EU Member States as much as possible on the same classification of WEEE.

At least it would be advantageous to publish a compilation document – classification of WEEE (incl. differences) established by Member States - on the website of the European Commission ([http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/shipments/other\\_document\\_s.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/shipments/other_document_s.htm)), for example like the compilation document – Threshold values for contaminants in “green”-listed wastes established by Member States.

### LINKS

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

### KEY WORDS

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