

UK WEEE REGULATIONS – WEEE COLLECTION TARGETS FOR 2016

The UK Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations require the Secretary of State to set the amount of household WEEE collections falling within each category of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) that is to be financed by producers via their membership of a Producer Compliance Scheme (PCS). Comments were invited on a discussion paper circulated to key stakeholder groups on 24 February 2016.

The overall UK WEEE collection target for 2016 is 544,341 tonnes. This is 22,732 tonnes higher than the total amount of household WEEE collected and reported by PCSs to the environment agencies in 2015. Table 1 shows the breakdown of the overall target across the 14 categories EEE.

The overall target is below the collection levels necessary to achieve the UK Member State target of 730,450 tonnes¹ for 2016. The difference between the Member State target and that collected and financed by producers will come from “substantiated estimates” of WEEE arising and treated from other sources, notably LDA that appears in the light iron waste stream.

Table 1: 2016 WEEE Collection Targets

Category of waste	Business to consumer waste collected (tonnes)					Targets (tonnes)		% change in 2016 target	
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2015	2016	against 2015 target	against 2015 waste collected
1 - Large Household Appliances	142,395	143,765	153,474	168,137	178,776	174,730	189,322	8%	6%
2 - Small Household Appliances	30,975	32,342	33,347	33,011	35,679	37,121	36,981	0%	4%
3 - IT and Telecoms Equipment	34,806	33,904	32,769	35,988	47,270	38,608	56,762	47%	20%
4 - Consumer Equipment	32,757	32,149	33,184	35,119	37,974	38,087	39,429	4%	4%
5 - Lighting Equipment	0	0	6	3	1	0	0	0%	-100%
6 - Electrical and Electronic Tools	16,149	15,893	16,457	17,475	18,469	19,760	19,108	-3%	3%
7 - Toys Leisure and Sports	3,202	2,231	2,142	2,149	2,418	3,677	2,289	-38%	-5%
8 - Medical Devices	4	8	11	9	34	21	70	235%	105%
9 - Monitoring and Control Instruments	60	40	48	65	92	78	107	37%	16%
10 - Automatic Dispensers	1	0	1	8	5	7	18	154%	251%
2-10 Small Mixed WEEE (sub total)	117,953	116,568	117,965	123,826	141,943	137,359	154,763	13%	9%
Display equipment	142,572	135,503	99,832	83,739	74,245	75,563	68,708	-9%	-7%
Cooling appliances containing refrigerants	95,229	92,235	100,765	114,095	120,947	116,510	124,576	7%	3%
Lamps	876	867	843	2,083	5,605	2,680	6,882	157%	23%
Photovoltaic panels	0	0	0	0	93	36	90	150%	-3%
Totals	499,025	488,938	472,880	491,880	521,609	506,878	544,341	7.4%	4.4%

Methodology

The methodology for calculating the targets is based on the average annual growth in tonnes of WEEE collected for each category since 2011. Use of 5 year trend data mitigates the effect of outliers in the data, with the subsequent figure reflective of the general trend in collection volumes over the last five years. WEEE collected by schemes and reported to the environment agencies is used as the source data.

In some cases, manual adjustments have been made where the previous growth trend is not judged to be reflective of current market dynamics.

An additional factor we must also consider is the impact of a change of definition of household WEEE since 2014. This enables collections of business WEEE to count towards targets if items (notably ICT equipment, TVs and lamps) are similar to that which is sold to householders – so called “dual use” equipment.

¹ EU directive states that from 2016 the target that applies to each Member State will be 45% of the weight of equipment put on the market taken as an average over the previous 3 years. The source data is at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/waste-electrical-and-electronic-equipment-in-the-uk-2013>

Category 3 IT and Telecoms Equipment - collections in 2015 increased by 31% compared with the average annual trend of 9% growth. This is a likely consequence of some PCSs counting so called “dual use” WEEE arising at businesses towards their target. Stakeholder views were mixed on the likelihood of this trend continuing. However 35,000 tonnes of Category 3 were collected in 2015 outside of arrangements with PCSs some of which will be “dual use” WEEE which suggests the trend has potential to continue. The target is therefore set at 56,762 tonnes which is the mid-point between the trend growth and 2015 growth.

Category 5 Lighting – This category saw tonnage appear for the first time in 2013 as a consequence of LED lamp sources appearing as waste. Following the precedent set in 2014 and 2015 this is set at zero given that LED lamp sources now fall under Cat 13.

Category 11 display – There is an annual decline in tonnage collected in this category but the rate of decline is slowing. This is due to the “light weighting” of waste TVs and a peak in recycling during the digital switchover. The trend data would suggest a reduction of 15% for 2016. Stakeholder views range from maintaining the 2015 target to a reduction of 10%. The target is set at 68,708 tonnes, which is a 7.5% reduction compared to 2015, following the trend of the decreasing collections in this category that is now starting to bottom out.

Category 12 Refrigeration - The trend data shows a spike in collections since late 2013 when treatment requirements changed bringing new costs on recyclers. Consequently more equipment was channelled through the producer financed system. Although that spike in growth has tailed off the trend does nevertheless point to a rise for 2016 of 6.3%. However research by the sector on the respective weights of EEE and WEEE indicate that the collection rate is already very high - representing approximately 90% EEE put on the market. The target is set at 124,576 tonnes which is a 3% uplift against 2015 collections.

Category 13 Lamps – Dual Use has had a significant impact on lamps since virtually all the product sold (i.e. energy saving light bulbs, LEDs and fluorescent tubes) is suitable for business and domestic use. The target calculation therefore combines business and household historical WEEE data to consider the trend. Stakeholders broadly support this approach and many agreed that a significant proportion of waste lamps that is known to be treated outside of the WEEE system should also be included. 50% of the tonnage that was reported in 2015 as “non obligated” WEEE is added to the target. The target is therefore set at 6,882 tonnes

Category 14 PV panels – Photovoltaic (PV) Panels came within the scope of the WEEE Regulations effect from 1 January 2014. We therefore do not have the benefit of historical data prior to 2014. Given the long life expectancy of PV panels (25-30 years), the volume arising as waste is extremely low. The target is set at 90 tonnes, which is the amount of PV panels collected and financed by producers in 2015

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