



WEEE Recast: The 'preparation for reuse' target and the role of accredited reuse centres

Accredited reuse centres provide the answer to managing a safe, sustainable and transparent reuse sector in Europe, greatly complementing efforts to abide by the waste hierarchy. The WEEE recast must contain essential legal requirements that will allow accredited reuse centres to flourish.

The benefits of 'preparation for reuse' managed by accredited reuse centres include:

- Providing jobs and training which are locally based and respecting minimum environment and safety standards often to people with difficulties in accessing the job markets
- Providing the commitment to make available safe and affordable refurbished appliances and reusable parts (being sales or donations), providing they respect minimum energy efficiency standards and chemical restrictions (RoHS requirements).
- **exclusively managing a 5% 'preparation for reuse target' to include the handling of all monitoring and reporting obligations**
- stringently adhere to the principals of the definition of waste, so that a waste WEEE product does not cease to be waste unless it has been fully tested and can be guaranteed to be fit and safe for purpose according to *European minimum 'preparation for reuse' standards** and that proof of this is traceable and reported for every single product
- ensuring adequate monitoring and inspection mechanisms for the export of reusable items and provide evidence that products are not going for illegal export.
- work alongside producer schemes in order to increase transparency and link preparation for reuse activities with producer financial responsibility
- the possible *transfer of responsibility* from waste producers to accredited reuse centres for the refurbished appliances and reusable parts,
- ensuring the *proper handling of appliances/parts* (collection, dismantling, control,...)
- helping boost resource efficiency by extending the lifespan of electrical appliances, saving substantial resources and energy throughout the lifecycle of an appliance.

To make this a reality, an essential package of legal requirements in the WEEE Recast includes:

- **5% reuse target** on all WEEE **applicable to all operators**
- Producers must provide **free of charge information** to accredited reuse centres about the different EEE components and materials, as well as the location of dangerous substances and mixtures in their products in order to facilitate the preparation for re-use and the correct and environmentally sound treatment of WEEE, including maintenance, upgrade, refurbishment and recycling. **Environmentally sound treatment must not be dependent on payment especially if the re-use centres are run by NGOs**
- In order to maximise the reuse of whole items Member States **must ensure** that prior to any further shipment, collection schemes provide for the separation at the collection points of WEEE that is to be prepared for re-use from other separately collected WEEE. To complement this process further, **mandatory access** must be given to all accredited reuse centres to all 'first collection sites

*Note: preparation for reuse standards exist in a number of Member States which should form the basis to an EU wide standard. As such any EU standards to be adopted must include the input of already nationally accredited reuse centres and networks

Your support on the above legal requirements is crucial in moving towards a truly resource efficient, socially inclusive and economically sound Europe

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