

AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION NOTICE NO. 2011/38

Consultation on the Product Stewardship (Computers and Televisions) Regulations

This notice is to update importers and inform Customs brokers about the development of Commonwealth regulations that will require importers of televisions and computers to organise and fund the recycling of television and computer waste.

The *Product Stewardship Act 2011* commenced on 8 August 2011. The objectives of the Product Stewardship Act are to reduce the impact that certain products (and substances they contain) have on the environment, and on the health and safety of human beings, throughout the entire life of those products. The first products to be covered by product stewardship arrangements are televisions, computers and computer peripherals.

The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPaC) is drafting Product Stewardship (Television and Computer) Regulations (the Regulations) to underpin industry run and funded recycling schemes for televisions, computers and computer peripherals.

The Regulations will require that importers of more than a specified number of units are liable parties under the Product Stewardship Act, which will then require them to join an *‘approved product stewardship arrangement*’. An approved product stewardship arrangement is a set of activities designed to achieve the outcomes (such as a recycling target) set out in the Regulations. Administrators of approved stewardship arrangements must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the outcomes specified in the Regulations are met, including recycling targets, and Australia-wide coverage.

Under the proposed Regulations, the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service will provide data to DSEWPaC, to support the operation of the Regulations. This information will be used to identify importers of televisions, computers and computer peripherals, and to determine their liability under legislation. The Product Stewardship Act provides for financial penalties to be imposed in importers who do not meet their obligations under the scheme.

An exposure draft of the Regulations will be released in September 2011 for a four week public consultation period. During this period, written submissions will be invited, and public meetings will be held nationally between 13 September and 21 September 2011. Information on meeting dates and locations can be found at: [www.environment.gov.au/ewaste.](http://www.environment.gov.au/ewaste)

Further information can also be obtained from the DSEWPaC on (02) 6274 1314, or by emailing ‘[ewaste@environment.gov.au](mailto:ewaste@environment.gov.au)’. Interested parties should subscribe to the National Television and Computer Scheme e-bulletin: [www.environment.gov.au/settlements/waste/ewaste/subscribe.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/settlements/waste/ewaste/subscribe.html)

Inquiries concerning Customs and Border Protection aspects of this notice may be directed to Manager Community Protection on telephone number (02) 6275 6038 or by email to [community.protection@customs.gov.au](mailto:community.protection@customs.gov.au)

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