

# EPR Framework in the Netherlands

EPR in the Netherlands is a legal obligation where producers are responsible for the entire lifecycle of their products, including take-back, recycling, and proper waste disposal. This system encourages producers to design more sustainable products and participate in recycling schemes.

## 1. Mattresses

**EPR for Mattresses:** Mattresses have been identified as a significant waste stream due to their bulk and difficulty in recycling. In the Netherlands, an EPR system for mattresses came into effect in January 2021.

### Key Details:

Producers and importers are responsible for the collection, treatment, and recycling of used mattresses.

A take-back scheme ensures that discarded mattresses are collected from municipal waste sites and specialized collection points.

Producers pay a fee to cover the cost of recycling mattresses, which incentivizes better design for recyclability.

Companies like RetourMatras handle the recycling process, where mattresses are dismantled, and materials like foam and textiles are reused in other products.

## 2. Furniture

**Voluntary Initiatives, not Full EPR Yet:** Unlike mattresses, furniture does not yet have a formal EPR scheme in the Netherlands, but there are growing initiatives to develop one.

**Sustainability in Furniture:** Many companies are adopting circular practices voluntarily, such as using recyclable materials and offering take-back services. The focus is on reducing waste, extending product lifecycles, and designing for recyclability.

### Industry Movements:

CIRCO Hub and other organizations promote circular design for furniture and aim to extend the product lifecycle.

The government has signaled a shift towards mandatory EPR schemes for furniture, aligning with broader EU directives on circular economy.

Furniture retailers and manufacturers are increasingly adopting circular business models, including leasing options and refurbishment services.

### 3. Electric and Electronic Appliances (WEEE Directive)

EPR for Electric Appliances (WEEE): The Netherlands adheres to the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive from the European Union, which has been in effect since 2005. This law mandates that producers of electrical and electronic goods are responsible for the take-back, recycling, and disposal of their products.

#### Key Elements:

Producers and importers must register and report their activities to Wecycle, a Dutch organization responsible for coordinating e-waste collection and recycling.

There are collection points for consumers to drop off their old appliances, and producers finance these collection and recycling systems.

The system covers a wide range of products, including household appliances (e.g., refrigerators, washing machines) and small electronic devices (e.g., smartphones, toasters).

E-waste recycling rates are relatively high, with around 65-70% of the material being successfully recycled.

### EPR Enforcement and Support

The Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management oversees EPR regulations. It encourages innovation and sustainable product design by making producers financially responsible for the end-of-life of their products.

Enforcement: Non-compliance can result in fines or restrictions on selling products in the Netherlands.

Support for Producers: Companies can collaborate with organizations like Nederland Circulair! to develop circular strategies and comply with EPR obligations.

### Conclusion

The Netherlands is one of the frontrunners in implementing EPR schemes, particularly in sectors like electronics and mattresses. While furniture EPR is still in development, voluntary initiatives and the push towards circular business models signal future changes.