# WEEE regulationshttp://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/7/7e/WEEE_symbol_vectors.svg/420px-WEEE_symbol_vectors.svg.png

Since January 2007, there have been regulations in place in the UK which aim to reduce the amount of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) being produced and to encourage everyone to reuse, recycle and recover it.

Use the link to the Environment Agency website section on WEEE to research and answer the following questions.

### You are given a new computer for Xmas. What should you do with the old one?

There are two considerations when disposing of personal electronic waste, like your computer. Firstly, you need to consider the Personal Identifiable Information (PII) that could be stored on the hardware, you should ensure this has either been removed and encrypted before disposal.

Second, is the environmental impact. Electronic waste also known as *E-Waste* is full of hazardous toxic substances such as mercury, lead, and brominated flame retardants (UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, n.d.)*.*

Under *The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013*, a household has a *duty of Care* to ensure all controlled waste is disposed of without harming the environment. As a household you are entitled to use a *free take back scheme* provided by electronic retailers that allows you to return goods to store or have them collected when purchased online or via telephone (.Gov UK Statutory Instruments, 2013).

### You own a computer shop which sells computer systems, components, and peripherals. What are your obligations under the WEEE regulations?

As the owner of a retailer and distributor of electronic goods, you are bound by The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013. You have a responsibility to provide an electronic waste take back scheme for like for like articles that are purchased from your business (.Gov UK - Guidance, Published 8 January 2018).

Depending on the size and the way you sell electronic articles will determine the way you provide your electronic waste take back scheme. If your business sells £100,000 or more of electronic waste per year and has physical retail store, you will need to take back waste in your store or set up an alternative collection point. If your business sells less than £100,000 per year, or you are an online retailer you can use the Distributor Takeback Scheme (DTS) (Valpak Retail WEEE Services, n.d.).

All electronic retailers must provide free written information to customers to promote the safe return of electronic waste. This must include:

* Which take back service is available, including collect on delivery
* How a consumer can reuse and recycle electrical and electronic equipment
* Why electronic waste needs to be separated from other waste
* The damaging effects of not recycling electrical and electronic equipment
* The meaning of the crossed-out wheelie bin symbol

The easiest way for retailers or distributors to provide this information, is to include it within the packaging of their products. Businesses should also display posters in store about the take back scheme they have available. For online retailers you must publish information on your website about your take back service (.Gov - Enviroment Agency, 2017).

### You import cheap tablet PCs which you brand and sell through Ebay. What are your obligations under the WEEE regulations?

As the owner of an online retail business selling electronic goods in the UK, you are bound by The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013. You have a responsibility to provide an electronic waste take back scheme for like for like articles that are purchased from your business.

As an online only retailer, you can apply to use the Distributor Takeback Scheme (DTS). You will pay a fee that covers your waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) obligations, the amount you pay depends on, the size of your business, whether you only sell online, and how much EEE you sell. This money goes towards supporting the recycling centres run by local authorities.

Once you have joined the Distributor Takeback Scheme (DTS) you will be issued with a WEEE Number, this should be added to you eBay account, if your business sells to Germany there is also a local scheme you should consider Stiftung Elektro-Altgeräte Register (EAR) (eBay.co.uk, n.d.) .

Under the act you also have an obligation to make available on your eBay store, details of your DTS and how consumers can expect you to make this available.

### Your company has just placed an order for 20 new PCs. What should happen to the old ones?

As a business your first thoughts should be how you can prevent, reuse or recycle your electronic equipment. If then, the chosen route is disposal you must:

* Keep waste to a minimum.
* Sort and store waste safely and securely.
* Complete a waste transfer note for each load of waste that leaves your premises.
* Check if your waste carrier is registered to dispose of waste.
* Not allow the waste carrier to dispose of your waste illegally.

When seeking disposal you should find a reputable collection service, you have a Duty of Care to ensure your waste collection provider has channels too reuse or recycle as well. For each load of waste that leaves your business you should receive a Waste Transfer Note, this should be kept for a minimum of 2 years and be made available to a local enforcement officer at their request (.Gov Business waste and environmental impact, n.d.).

Here is a download to a waste transfer note. <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7d875be5274a676d532987/LIT_7932.pdf>

# References

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