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## WEEE News – August 2013.

Dear readers,

the following topics have been prepared for you this month:

<b>Commodities:</b>	Begin of trend reversal?
<b>Producer responsibility:</b>	Draft of new FAQ for WEEE-Recast has been published.
<b>The Recycler's View:</b>	Data protection begins with pick-up.
<b>From the countries:</b>	Germany, UK, Italy, The Netherlands, Austria, Israel, Kolumbia.

### **Commodities:                      Begin of trend reversal?**

„Soil formation – does the trend reversal begin?” that is how the raw material report of our partner the IKB Deutsche Industriebank AG, ([www.ikb.de](http://www.ikb.de)) starts in August. For recovered steel fractions 70,- up to 80,- Euros less than in January are realized ((<http://www.euwid-recycling.de/news/maerkte/einzelansicht/Artikel/e-schrottreycler-leiden-unter-niedrigen-rohstoffpreisen.html>)). Also the global steel prices declined in July again. However the IKB calls attention to the sideways movement of scrap prices in the same period. The spot prices for ore rose during the month by even 10%. Probably because of this the IKB is reaffirming the forecast of increasing steel products after the summer break and expects still 3% up to 4% higher prices for European steel products from September onwards.

### **Producer responsibility:      Draft of new FAQ for WEEE-Recast has been published.**

The European Commission has published a draft of the new FAQ for Directive 2012/19/EC. On 30 pages there will be given – as in the present FAQ – detailed assistance for interpretation. The question list is a lot more extensive than in 2006. The experience of the last years has been taken over in the answers. Some of the manifestations will certainly lead to discussions. On one hand it is explicitly determined that printer cartridges with chips fall under the Directive, while on the other hand devices of which the basic function is not dependent of electric, are not affected. The sportshoes from adidas would therefore still not fall into the scope. Even though the FAQ shall not be inconsistent with the RoHS 2.0 FAQ, there are obviously ambiguities. New tasks are approaching the countries in which it is not possible to declare individual take-backs today and the countries, which today accept registrations from foreign companies from Europe but do not accept registrations from non-European companies. Feedbacks can be given in writing to ENV-WEEE@ec.europa.eu until 30th August.

Source: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/weee/events\\_weee\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/weee/events_weee_en.htm)

### **The Recycler's View:              Data protection begins at the pick-up location.**

On collections of high-quality old IT-devices it sometimes happens that hard disks with data on them are still incorporated in the devices. Many producer and user are not aware of the fact that neither the transporter nor the recycler can be made liable for the data protection on these hard disks. For this a separate agreement is required. Technically the recycling itself

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does not contain obligatory the final destruction of the data medium. This is also extensively unknown. Therefore affected users should enter in separate agreements referring to the data protection or immediately ensure a separate destruction on-location ([www.datenkiller.com](http://www.datenkiller.com)) or on the recycling premises.

Source: RENE AG

**From the countries:** Germany, UK, Italy, Netherlands, Austria, Israel, Kolumbia.

**Germany: Collection volume from private households declines by 5 %.**

The Stiftung elektro-altgeräte-register © (Stiftung ear) announced a decline of the B2C-collection volumes by 5% in comparison to the previous year. Therewith the trend from last year continues. With a total volume of 578 thousand tons Germany is on the level of year 2007 (586 thousand tons). It's interesting, that the opting volumes, the tons that are recycled by municipalities without passing the system of the Stiftung ear, have more than doubled in comparison to 2007. More take-backs from municipalities with smaller collection volumes – a relapse in the time before the ElektroG came into force? For the producer the cost reductions for not assigned collections are the consequence as well as missing compensations. How far the targets from article 7 of the Directive 2012/19/EC can be achieved with this background, has to be awaited. Maybe the system of municipal independent collection coordination was better than his reputation? Is there a problem on the transfer of Output-declarations of the municipalities? Which effect does the increasing lightweight constructions of the waste electrical and electronic equipment have on the collected total weight?

**UK: Collection volume declines by 12% in the first quarter.**

Also in Great Britain the collection volumes are declining. The statistics of Q1 2013 generated by UK EPA shows, that the total volume of declared waste electrical and electronic equipment has declined by even 12% in comparison to the same period in the previous year. The pressure on the responsible authorities to change something is increasing with regard to the higher collection targets that are claimed in article 7 of WEEE 2 (2012/19/EC), also because the reason for the Q1-result is not clear. In this connection we also refer to the RENE-Newsletter from July, in which declining sales volumes are made subject of the discussion. Option 1 “do nothing” can not be an option for the responsible. ([https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/190207/bis-13-762-implementation-of-weee-recast-directive-and-changes-to-the-uk-weee-system-consultation.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/190207/bis-13-762-implementation-of-weee-recast-directive-and-changes-to-the-uk-weee-system-consultation.pdf))

Source: <https://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/skeleton/publications/ViewPublication.aspx?id=54de1806-4d25-4004-a84e-07163f618b85>

**Italy: A municipal collection site is where the collections are sited.**

Already in June RENE AG announced that for Italian take-back system it can be quite unclear where recycling depots in the county are. It is obviously enough if a municipality registers any address with the Centro di Coordinamento. For the verification of these data a confirmation from a recycler is enough. Officially the address has not to exist; also it does not need to be found in the common navigation software. More details with regard to the facilities

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or valid authorization dossiers can quite be missing as well. Such doubts of take-back systems are recorded, but are not processed. This is a lot more incomprehensible, as the take-back systems should pay the collections from the municipalities. Shall this observation by RENE AG be representative, the consequence needs to be intensive audits of the recyclers, their processes and documentation, but also of the collection points through the collection systems.

Source: RENE AG Italia

**Netherlands: STIBAT asks his registered members to provide their customer data.**

With reference to the Dutch transposition of the Battery Directive 2006/66/EC the take-back system STIBAT asks its members to provide the data of their own customers. All producers have been contacted correspondingly. From RENE's point of view the return flow will be restrained. The data could help to identify double-declarations and therewith to calculate achieved quotas more precisely.

Source: [www.stibat.nl](http://www.stibat.nl)

**Israel: Requirements to take-back systems are defined.**

The Israeli Ministry for Environment Protection has published the licence requirements for take-back systems.

Source: [www.complianceandrisk.com](http://www.complianceandrisk.com)

**Kolumbia: New WEEE.**

The WEEE-legislation in Columbia has come into force on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

Source: [www.complianceandrisk.com](http://www.complianceandrisk.com)

We wish all of our readers a nice summer vacation break!

Your RENE team