

WEEE News – April 2018.

Dear readers,

the following topics have been prepared for you this month:

Commodities:	More steel and higher scrap prices.
Producer Responsibility:	Classification of devices in new WEEE categories.
The Recycler's View:	Recycling rates 2018.
From the countries:	Germany, France, UK, Spain, Finland.

Commodities: More steel and higher scrap prices.

The IKB Deutsche Industriebank AG (www.ikb.de) reports a 4% increase of the world steel production at the end of February 2018, whereas the steel production in North America declined again and stagnated in Europe. Therefore, the increase was mainly driven by China (increase of 6%). Scrap prices increased and compensated the development from the beginning of the year. Overall, the prices for scrap fell up to € 20 per tonne in February, depending on variety and region. For April, lateral movement of the scrap prices are expected; for the month of May, the prices are expected to increase once more.

As usual, the complete IKB-Report is at your disposal on our homepage.

Source: IKB-Information Commodity prices, April 2018, page 2

Producer Responsibility: Classification of devices in new WEEE categories.

In the course of the reporting activity it comes to attention that in some member states a clear classification of devices into the new WEEE categories does not always seem to be possible. From RENE AG's point of view the dimensional criterion for the classification in the WEEE categories 4 and 5 is the central factor. It can be confusing that the description of the device types on the part of the systems does not allow the assignment. For example, Poland has a vacuum cleaner in category 5 (small appliances) but not in category 4. In case of doubt, RENE AG suggests giving top priority to the size – background is the usability. Feedback on this proposal is welcome (helmut.minor@rene-europe.com).

Sources: RENE AG

The Recycler's View: Recycling rates 2018.

As every year, in 2018 the recycling rates achieved in the previous year must be reported to the authorities of the member states. In many cases, these reports are now handled by the collective systems. Thus, the responsibility of the producer seems to end with the report of the sales volume and the payment of appropriate disposal contributions. However, the manufacturer should take a look at the rates and check for consistency. The dispensation through notification and financing does not discard the responsibility for the methods and ways of utilization. The perceptible environment protection and with that the physically discernible manufacturer's responsibility just starts there.

From the countries: Germany, France, UK, Spain, Finland**Germany: Transnational report to WEEE, batteries and packaging**

In the course of the Moveco project the Interreg-Program has published a European evaluation on the state of implementation of extended producer responsibility in Europe.

<http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/moveco/outputs>

France: Circular flow economy shall be strengthened.

The French Ministry of Environment is planning measures to strengthen the circular economy. In this context, more waste categories will be formed and labelling simplified. Effects on the implementation of the WEEE Directive are not yet apparent.

Source:

<https://www.franceinter.fr/economie/recyclage-de-nouvelles-mesures-pour-favoriser-l-economie-circulaire-et-moins-polluer-la-planete>

UK: Authority reduces collection targets for WEEE

The UK Environment Agency has downgraded the collection targets for 2018 by about 14% compared to the previous year. Especially for screens (currently category 11 in the UK) and gas discharge lamps (currently category 13) the objectives have been adapted to the real conditions at the recycling centers. Because of too ambitious collection targets, some collective schemes were not able to secure their obligation on their own last year and had to go the expensive way by paying an additional compliance fee. This is neither in the interest of the manufacturers who ultimately have to bear these purely administrative costs, nor does the environment benefit from this. Therefore, the measure of the UK Environment Agency is to be welcomed from the perspective of manufacturers and collection systems.

Source: Circular letter from UK Environment Agency from 29th March 2018

Spain: Change-over to WEEE 2 started.

In time for the quarterly report Q1, the Spanish WEEE register has implemented the new WEEE categories. However, the reports to the collective systems still follow the previous classification into ten categories.

Source: RENE AG

Finland: WEEE category 6 only for B2C devices?

The Finnish system Elker Oy indicates to RENE AG that professional IT not exceeding external dimensions of 50cm still fall under WEEE category 4 (large equipment). Furthermore, small professional IT devices are generally considered as B2C devices. The products already have to be reported this way. Adjustments to the reporting structure are planned during the second quarter of 2018.

Source: Elker Oy-Email to RENE AG from 6th April 2018.

We wish our readers a successful month!

Your RENE team