

WEEE News – January 2018.

Dear readers,

the following topics have been prepared for you this month:

Commodities:	Steel production also rises in 2018.
Producer Responsibility:	15 th August 2018 – the countdown runs incomparably.
The Recycler's View:	Plastics in general do not go to China anymore.
From the countries:	Germany, France, UK, Austria, USA.

Commodities: Steel production also rises in 2018.

For 2018, the IKB Deutsche Industriebank AG (www.ikb.de) is anticipating an ongoing rise of 2.5% in the steel production. Until November 2017 the production already exceeded the prior year level by 5.4%. However, it is expected that the prices for steel will drop slightly in the first quarter of 2018, whereas the scrap metal prices supposedly increase slightly. The complete IKB report is at your disposal on our homepage.

Source: IKB-Information Commodity prices, 9th January 2018, page 1

Producer Responsibility: 15th August 2018 – the countdown runs incomparably.

On 14th August 2018 the transition period to a new scope of the WEEE-Directive 2012/19/EU (WEEE2) is ending. From 15th August 2018 the present ten WEEE categories will be summarized into six WEEE categories. In addition, from this time a so-called “open scope“ applies. Accordingly, every electrical appliance is covered by WEEE2 unless it is excluded by the provisions of the Directive itself.

The member states handle the date of implementation differently. According to their own statements, Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia have changed their reporting systems as of 1st January 2018. Unfortunately, the structures of the reporting templates are not yet adapted everywhere. Other states will only organise the transition on 1st January 2019 or even beyond.

Source: RENE AG

The Recycler's View: Plastics in general do not go to China anymore.

„The Worlds dumping ground closes“, the newspaper ZEIT ONLINE headlined on 6th January 2018 (<http://www.zeit.de/wirtschaft/2018-01/muellexporte-china-plastikmuell-recycling>). At the end of 2017 China has stopped the import of plastic waste. This also has impact on the recovery of recycling groups from WEEE. From the total volume of WEEE, plastics account for 20% to 30%. Of these, 5 to 7% are brominated plastics, e.g. PC- and monitor casings.

Only this fraction is no longer accepted by China. The recycling companies are now searching for alternative ways of processing. In the course of manual dismantling of WEEE the French recycling partner of RENE AG performs a bromine measurement as well as a corresponding pre-sorting of plastic. The brominated fractions are treated as hazardous waste. In the medium term, such additional working steps, but also the utilisation or removal might be reflected on the recovery costs in Europe.

Source: Recycling Network Europe, RENE AG

From the countries: Germany, France, UK, Austria, USA.

Germany: ear® organises the open scope of the ElektroG.

The Stiftung elektro-altgeräte-register (ear®) is well prepared for the tasks to be done in the course of transition to the new scope of the ElektroG. The service providers working in this field were instructed in workshops in the premises of the ear in Fürth. With lectures and newsletters in the last months, manufacturers have been informed about the upcoming changes. As of 26th October 2018, the ear® automatically switches the previous device types as per a correspondence rule to the new types of equipment. The manufacturer himself, however, has to examine if the conversion corresponds with the product portfolio or if there are further registrations required. First applications for new equipment types can be made as of 1st May 2018.

Source: Stiftung elektro-altgeräte-register Workshop 12th January 2018, <https://www.stiftung-ear.de/elektrog-2018/>

France: Consolidation of the WEEE Collective Systems.

As of 1st January 2018, the merger of Eco-Systèmes and Recylum took effect. Under the new company name ESR, the organisation has the necessary collection permit for the next three years. The contract documents have already been sent to the participants before the turn of the year. Since the ERP SAS was no longer granted a license as a collective system for years, the supplier side has now consolidated further. Besides ESR, there is only one more WEEE collective system in France. For WEEE category 5, ESR is now the only remaining collective system.

Source: <http://www.journaldelenvironnement.net/article/esr-nouvel-eco-organisme-en-charge-des-deee-et-dds,88105>, RENE AG

UK: Environment Agency reviews structure of fees.

The UK Environment Agency (EA) has prompted the participants in the environmental management to assist with fee structure adjustments. The intention is to increase the transparency of fees, which in the future should include both fixed and variable components. This way, the Environment Agency would like to achieve better cost recovery as well as ensure more appropriate fees. The results of this review are anticipated to be published during the first quarter of 2018.

Source: Circular letter from UK Environment Agency in December 2017, RENE AG PCS

Austria: Transition of weight determination for electronic devices.

Since 1st January 2018, the devices in Austria no longer have to be reported with built-in batteries. Hereby, the previous practice of dual reporting of batteries and accumulators is terminated.

Source: RENE AG

USA – Minnesota

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency refers to the online publication of registered manufacturers for the PY 11 (Program Year 11), which still lasts until 30th June 2018. Manufacturers with an obligation to register according to the MN Electronics Recycling Act who are not listed must contact the authority at short notice. The sales volume data report for 2017 is due on 1st March 2018.

Source: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency circular letter from 8th January 2018

We wish our readers a good start into a successful new year!

Your RENE team