

## WEEE – Batteries - Packaging - News – August 2021.

Dear readers,

we have prepared the following topics for you this month:

<b>ElektroG:</b>	New requirements from ElektroG 3.
<b>From the countries:</b>	Germany, France, UK, Ireland, Netherlands, Switzerland, Singapore, Spain.
<b>From our perspective:</b>	Bound to the Basel Convention.

### **ElektroG: New requirements from ElektroG 3**

The revised regulation upon WEEE in Germany has laid out some new requirements for producers of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) of which we would like to point out the following:

1. Obligation to mark all EEE with the crossed-out wheeled bin symbol (including B2B)
2. B2B EEE producer to provide a take back concept to the central WEEE register ear
3. Enlarged information obligations for both b2b and b2c producers
4. No possibility anymore to agree upon deviating user financing methods for the take back of B2B WEEE.

Source: First amendment to the ElektroG

### **From the countries:**

#### **Germany: Revised packaging legislation in force**

Since the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2021, the revised packaging regulation of the German VerpackG is in force. The VerpackG transposes the requirements from Directive 2019/ 904 upon the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment into German law. The regulation targets to improve the separate collection of certain materials and defines mandatory recycling targets for specific materials. From the viewpoint of RENE AG, the focus is still on the packaging from private households or those generators that have been defined as comparable. Producers that are falling under the requirements of § 15 VerpackG need to be aware of the requirements to document take backs and to provide evidence of the financial budget for take back operations starting on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

Source: VerpackG

**France: Apply or not apply?**

With regard to the Triman logo application in France, RENE AG has been confronted with a range of questions and deviating information over the last two months. Based on our findings, the law for circular economy and against waste (AGEC) has led to the Decree of the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021 which applies article 17 of the AGEC. Consequently, the Triman logo becomes an obligation for all B2C products of producers that fall into the scope of an Extended Producer Responsibility (also outside the WEEE scope). Based on the communication of the packaging collective scheme CITEO from the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021, the relevant authorities now validate the Decree. Should this validation come to a positive conclusion which is expected in November 2021, the producers would have twelve months to apply the logo to products, user manuals and packaging.

For producers of EEE, the symbol of the crossed-out wheeled bin can be used as a substitute.

Source: CITEO, Info-Tri on pack, le décret, et après?, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021  
[www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/loi-anti-gaspillage](http://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/loi-anti-gaspillage)

**UK: Environment Agency (EA) has started consultation upon new recycling standards for WEEE**

On the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021, the EA has started the consultation upon new guidance rules upon the best available treatment recovery and recycling techniques and the treatment of WEEE. Standards are supposed to be made clear, consistent and enforceable. This initiative is backed by the recycling industry. It is noticeable that despite of Brexit, the European Industrial Emission Directive (2010/75/EU) is taken into consideration. Furthermore, we'd like to point out that this initiative targets towards the intention of the WEEE Directive's Article 19. The consultation periods ends on the 5<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

Sources: Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and Waste Cooling Equipment (WCE) : appropriate measures for permitted facilities - Environment Agency - Citizen Space (environment-agency.gov.uk)

WEEE sector backs 'tidying up' of recycling regulations | MRW

**Ireland: Auditing EEE and batteries producers**

The Environment Protection Agency in the Republic of Ireland insists during their audits that produce registration numbers appear on invoices to distributors and that end users are informed about the possibility to return WEEE to the responsible producers. Not providing this information leads to a non-compliance issue.

Source: EPA, Republic of Ireland

## **The Netherlands: Changing rules for Authorized Representative**

The Dutch legislation for WEEE is not transposing Article 17 of the WEEE Directive 2012/19/EU. Therefore foreign producers can join Stichting OPEN without appointing an Authorized Representative. Stichting OPEN, however, refers to the national legislation of the producer in order to determine whether or not an Authorized Representative in the Netherlands has to be chosen. From the RENE AG standpoint this may lead to an unequal administration burden depending on the origin of the producer.

Source: Communication from Stichting OPEN on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021

## **Switzerland: Merge of systems**

The two collective schemes SENS and SLRS have merged retro-actively on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021. Based on the communication from the organisation, the administration is now driven by the prior SENS organisation. It is currently not planned to increase contribution fees.

Source: SLRS info mail from the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021

## **Singapore: Producer Responsibility Scheme in roll-out.**

Since the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021, the Producer Responsibility Scheme is in place and provides collection bins for 1:1 returns to consumers within retailer outlets of more than 300 m<sup>2</sup>. Consumers can return their equipment for free in over 300 collection points.

Source: National Environment Agency of Singapore

## **Spain: Three year prevention plans for WEEE.**

Based on Directive 2018/849, Spain has amended the WEEE and batteries regulations. The relevant regulation that transposes Directive 2018/849 into Spanish law is Royal Decree 27/2021 from the 19th January 2021 which in return relates to RD 110/2015 upon WEEE and RD 106/2008 upon batteries and accumulators. Article 5.4 of RD 27/2021 determines prevention plans for WEEE. These prevention plans apply for producers of EEE with a market share of more than 0,1 % per WEEE category. The prevention plans shall cover a three year period and are to be handed in to the Spanish Coordination Commission of Waste by the 31st October prior to the three years period.

Source: Real Decreto 27/2021, Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico

## **From our perspective: Bound to the Basel Convention**

The Basel Convention is one of the few agreements that have been signed by nearly all of the 200 states of the world community. The treaty aims at the waste hierarchy and avoidance of trans-boundary shipments of waste. It has been the basis for the Waste Framework Directive 2008/98 of the European Union and thus is integrated within the EU-national regulations of WEEE, batteries and packaging also.

Facing more and more international orders and requests from multinational operating corporations, RENE AG makes sure that WEEE, batteries and packaging waste is treated within the same country as it was generated - for returns in Europe and beyond. This is partially challenging with newly arising countries, but a core rule to our approach to the subject. We accept export of waste only on the basis of proven notifications and when there is no adequate treatment facility available within a country.

Source: RENE AG – [www.rene-europe.com](http://www.rene-europe.com)

We wish all our readers a pleasant summer.

Your team of RENE AG

Should you have questions or interest in an offer, please send us an inquiry:

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