

WEEE - Batteries - Packaging - News – May 2021.

Dear readers,

the following topics have been prepared for you this month:

ElektroG:	Changes of the WEEE law in Germany
From the countries:	France, Czech Republic, Italy, Austria
In own matter:	Recycling-partner worldwide

ElektroG: changes of the WEEE law in Germany

The German Federal Ministry of the Environment has announced that the German parliament has decreed changes in the German electronic law (Elektro- und Elektronikgerätegesetz) on 15th April 2021.

On 1st July 2022 at the latest, the consumers shall be allowed to drop their old electrical devices at grocery stores, discounters and food retailers for free. This applies to small electrical appliances regardless of whether or not a new product is purchased. For larger old devices, this applies to the purchase of a corresponding new item.

With this extended producer responsibility, it will be a lot easier to return old electrical devices for private end users. On the one hand, this is intended to increase the collection rate and, on the other hand, to send more devices for high-quality recycling.

The only requirement is that the retail space of the grocery store, discounter or food retailer is above 800 square meters and they tender electrical devices a few times in a year themselves.

Additionally, the change of the law also closes a gap in the area of online retailing. Accordingly, also online retailers need to offer a free take back of old devices when buying a new device (fridges, TVs, also devices with the largest outer dimension smaller 50cm).

Previously, the devices only had to be taken back from a reasonable distance and a logistics fee could be charged for collection.

Another new feature is that during the ordering process for a new device, the wish to dispose the old device must be actively queried when purchasing it and the customer has to answer "yes" or "no".

The changes of the German electronic law (Elektro- und Elektronikgerätegesetz) now only needs to be confirmed by the German federal council and shall then be active from 1st January 2022. A transition period of six months then applies for the retailers.

Source: Federal Environment Agency (Germany) May 2020

From the countries:

France: AGEC – the first effects of the new circular economy act in France – examples for: WEEE, batteries and packaging

In February last year, the French government has passed a new circular economy act (AGEC – Anti Gaspillage Economie Circulaire) which strives to reduce waste across all waste streams and to promote waste separation and recycling.

The first change for the packaging sector (penalties for labels, which can lead to confusion when separating waste) has now been implemented.

From 1st April 2021, the historical “Green Dot” label will gradually disappear from all packaging in France. A penalty payment of 100% of the license fee will apply to all packaging that continues to be marked with the “Green Dot”.

However, there is a transition period of 18 months from 1st April 2021 for all packaging that was manufactured or imported before this date.

The French recycling management act (Loi AGEC) also foresees a consistent waste separation for packaging and products that are subject of extended producer responsibility from 1st January 2022 onwards. Thus, products from the electrical and battery sectors will also be affected by the new recycling law.

Furthermore, also individual take-back schemes for WEEE B2B devices will need to be certified in the future. Those individual take-back schemes need to declare sales volume data and recycling quotes to the French register from now on.

The individual take-back scheme gains thus the status of a certified system. The AGEC even wants to go further in the future and turn a certified take-back system into an approved system. Approved individual take-back schemes perform then on the same level as eco-organism-systems in France.

Source: RP - Recy`stem Pro France and
AHK –Deutsch-Französische Industrie- und Handelskammer

Czech Republic: New WEEE regulation came into effect on 1st January 2021

Since 1st January 2021, the amended regulation of electric- and electronically waste came into effect in Czech Republic (End-of-Life Products No. 542/2020 Coll). The regulation defines the extended producer responsibility of the waste of old electric- and electronically devices in Czech Republic.

The most important change in this ordinance is the obligation to show the cost of return and recycling (visible fee) separately on invoices when a new product is sold.

In the Czech Republic, showing the visible fees was voluntary until 2020. This is now a mandatory requirement from 2021 onwards. This shall expose free riders at first glance.

In addition, incandescent lamps (unlike in all other EU countries) must also be reported as electrical devices since 1st January 2021.

Source: ASEKOL a.s. - April 2021

Italy: Environmental labelling is mandatory on all packaging

The Italian legislative Decree Nr. 116/220 has made environmental labelling mandatory for packaging of products intended for end consumers. The primary goal is to show the end user how to properly dispose the individual types of packaging.

All packaging must be appropriately labelled in accordance with the applicable UNI technical standards and in accordance with the decisions made by the EU Commission. This is intended to ease the collection, reuse, recovery and recycling of packaging. Also, it shall provide consumers with information of the ultimate point of use of the packaging. Manufacturers are also obliged to indicate the type of packaging materials used for the purpose of identifying and classifying the packaging, based on Commission Decision 97/129/EC.

The legislative decree did not schedule a transition period but came into effect immediately. Particular terms have been prolonged to the 31st December 2021 though.

The CONAI-guideline helps hereby interpret the new legislation. The national packaging consortium CONAI has in cooperation with the Italian institute of packaging created that guideline to the new labelling procedure.

Source: RENE AG - Italy

**Austria: EAG-VO – WEEE law in Austria
LED light sources and LED-lamps are considered as gas-discharge lamps**

The officially published statements of the WEEE-Audits in Austria have often revealed incomplete registrations in their examination determination because of the incorrect classification of LED light sources and LED-lamps in the wrong categories. This is synonymous with a non-report and leads to immediate administrative prosecutions if there's no rectification in timely manner.

LED light sources and LED-lamps have to be categorized in the collection and treatment category of gas discharge lamps. According to Annex 3 of the Austrian WEEE law (EAG-VO) as well as of the electrical equipment list of the Federal Ministry of Climate Protection, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK), have LED light sources and LED-lamps to be declared as gas-discharge lamps.

If this has not been done accordingly, the concerned company means to be non-compliant because of an incomplete registration.

We as RENE AG, are surely happy to check for you whether your registration is complete. Please do not hesitate to get back to us.

Source: BMNT Austria – April 2021

In own matters:

Not only Europe – meanwhile, we are able to offer you our services worldwide!

Around 80 states across the globe have formally defined standards for an environmentally sound recycling of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE).

In order to meet those standards, RENE AG manages a worldwide network of WEEE recycling companies. Currently this network spans across 56 countries. Together with more than 80 contracted partners, RENE AG is prepared to take back your WEEE in North and South America, in Europe, in Africa, the Middle East, the most relevant countries in Asia and in Australia. The recycling is executed always within the country of the pick-up.

The recycling network Germany covers Berlin, Bochum, Cologne, Stuttgart, Sonneberg and Munich.

Within Europe our hubs are in Athens, Barcelona, Brno, Bruxelles, Budapest, Bukarest, Bordeaux, Dublin, Gothenburg, Graz, Helmond, Helsinki, Leeds, Lviv, Lissabon, London, Luxembourg, Madrid, Naestved, Oslo, Paris, Rietz, St. Petersburg, Turin.

Worldwide hubs are currently located in Auckland, Bangkok, Beijing, Bogotá, Casablanca, Chennai, Dubai, Guangzhou, Houston, Istanbul, Johannesburg, Karachi, Lima, Manila, Melbourne, Montreal, Pasir Gudang, Petach Tekva, Quito, San Francisco, Singapore, Sydney, Taipeh, Yokohama.

The network is continuously expanding along with our partners. It is one of the key components for international manufacturers to set up a world wide solution for their environmental responsibility.

All network partners from RENE AG are DIN ISO-14,001 certified and provide thus a worldwide quality standard. An additional RENE-quality-charta together with regular audits ensure that RENE achieves a worldwide treatment quality standard that is both reliable and comparable.

Source: RENE AG worldwide – May 2021

We wish our readers over all good health in these challenging times!

Your RENE team

In case of any questions – or interests in an offer – please do not hesitate to send us an email:

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