WEEE disposal guidance for your business

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SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

SEPA
Scottish Environment Protection Agency

Introduction to WEEE

Waste electrical and electronic equipment, also known as WEEE, is one of the fastest growing forms of waste. It can contain substances such as mercury, lead and cadmium, which can cause significant harm to human health and the environment.

This step by step guide shows how to deal with your business WEEE in compliance with the regulatory requirements, particularly the WEEE regulations[1]. These regulations were introduced to increase re-use and recycling, and reduce the amount of WEEE going to landfill

How do the WEEE regulations affect my business?

Your business may need to dispose of old EEE from time to time. These can include items such as:

- IT and telecommunications equipment;
- electrical and electronic tools;
- lighting equipment;
- monitoring and control instruments;
- display equipment (cathode ray tube monitors or flat screens);
- cooling appliances.

It is your business' responsibility to be aware of the options available to you and ensure that the duty of care[2] is observed at all times. This includes storing your waste safely, using a registered waste carrier, keeping a waste transfer note when it leaves your site and ensuring that your waste is handled by an appropriately licensed or exempt site.

When did you buy your WEEE?

After 13 August 2005

The cost of collection, treatment and recycling of EEE bought after 13 August 2005 should be met by the **producer i.e. a manufacturer, re-brander, or importer of EEE**. However you may wish to come to an alternative commercial agreement with the producer, whereby the WEEE becomes your responsibility and is dealt with in accordance with the duty of care legislation.

Entering such an alternative arrangement could mean you pay less for a new product in exchange for being responsible for making sure your WEEE is treated and recycled correctly.

Most new EEE products bought after 13 August 2005 can be identified by an underlined crossed out wheelie bin symbol.

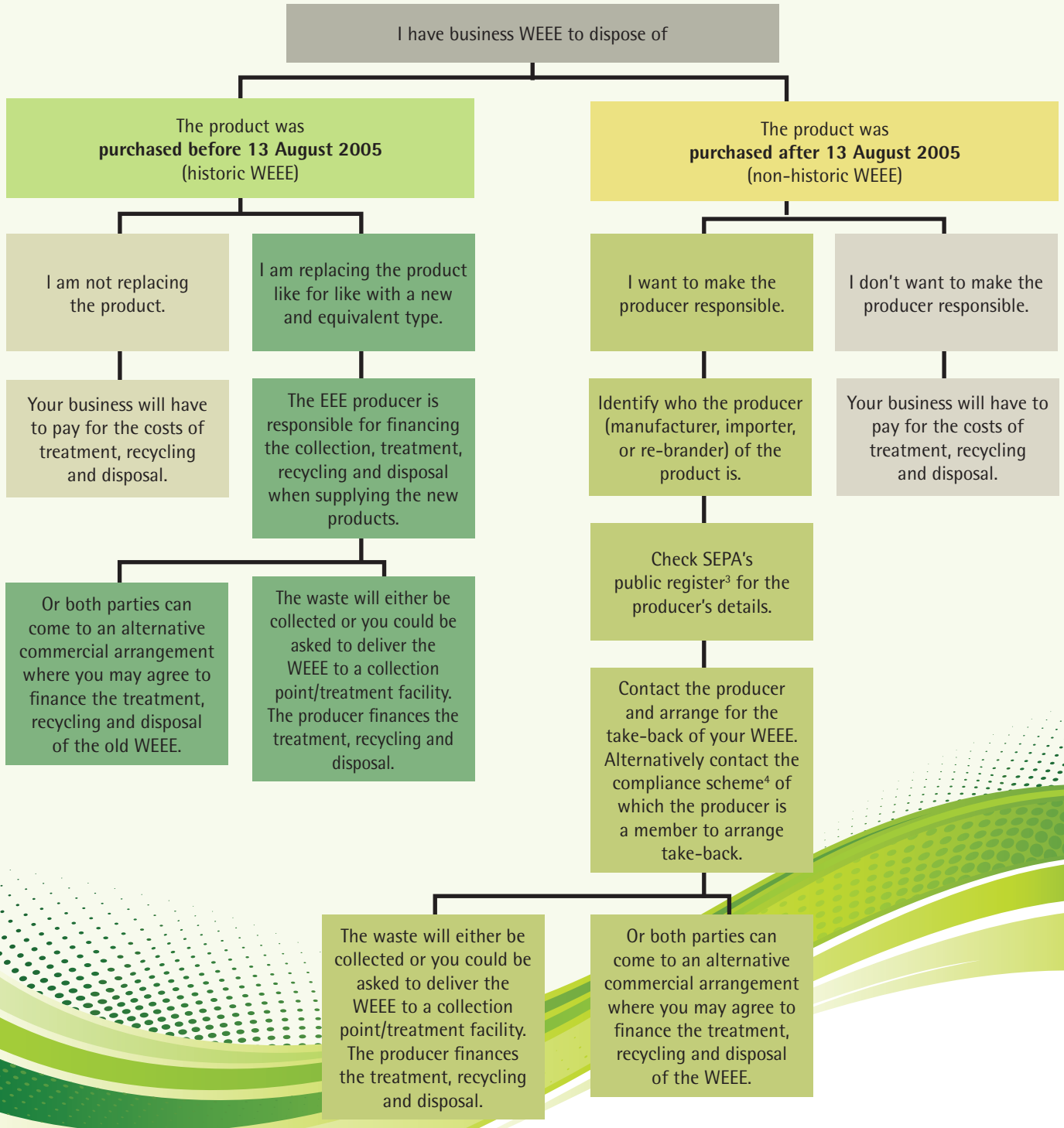


Before 13 August 2005

Different arrangements apply to WEEE arising from products purchased before 13 August 2005 (commonly referred to as historic WEEE). If you are replacing old WEEE on a like for like basis (e.g. a lamp for a lamp) then the producer of the new EEE is responsible for financing the collection, treatment and recycling of your old items, even if they aren't the original producer. Where the historic WEEE is not being replaced, your business will have to pay for the costs of disposal.

[1] www.bis.gov.uk/files/file35992.pdf
[2] www.sepa.org.uk/waste/waste_regulation/waste_carriers_and_brokers/duty_of_care.aspx

The chart below explains the steps you should take to dispose of your business WEEE, depending upon when it was purchased.



What happens if the producer refuses to take my business WEEE?

If the EEE producer refuses to take responsibility for your waste, contact SEPA's Producer Compliance and Waste Shipment Unit on 01786 457700 or email: producer.responsibility@sepa.org.uk

Further information

You can find out more about the WEEE regulations at:

- Scottish Environment Protection Agency: www.sepa.org.uk/weee
- Business Gateway: www.bgateway.com/weee

[3] www.sepa.org.uk/waste/waste_regulation/producer_responsibility/weee/public_register.aspx
[4] www.sepa.org.uk/waste/waste_regulation/producer_responsibility/weee/producer_compliance_schemes.aspx