

1.

German EMC-agency assists enforcement and UK's VCA investigates online retailers!

德国的EMC机构协助实施WEEE指令，
英国的VCA机构加大力度调查网上零售商！



- Two German government agencies, the Bundesnetzagentur and UBA, are to cooperate on WEEE enforcement!
- In the UK, the Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA) is responsible for enforcing the WEEE regulations!
- 两个德国政府机构，联邦机构以及UBA将共同合作实施WEEE指令！
- 在英国，VCA机构负责执行WEEE指令！

Two German government agencies, the Bundesnetzagentur and UBA, are to cooperate on WEEE enforcement. The Bundesnetzagentur carries out systematic market surveillance on the electromagnetic compatibility of electronic products. In the process it routinely checks the WEEE registration number which producers must display on invoices and shipping documents.

The absence of a registration number is seen as reasonable grounds for suspicion of non-compliance with the WEEE Act. If no number is found, the Bundesnetzagentur will secure evidence and alert UBA, the environment agency responsible for prosecution of WEEE infringements.

In the UK, the Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA) is responsible for enforcing the WEEE regulations. VCA is in the process of investigating online retailers' compliance with the distributor obligations. In one case reported to us, VCA staff called the retailer's customer hotline and asked for information about how disposal of WEEE is minimised, what collection and take-back systems are available to customers and what the crossed out bin symbol meant.

Following an apparently unsatisfactory answer, the online retailer received a letter from VCA asking them to explain within four weeks what actions were being taken or were intended to be taken to comply with the distributor obligations. When the company missed this deadline, a warning letter with a two-week deadline swiftly followed.

The letters refer only to the distributor, not the producer obligations. Evidence of infringements of distributor obligations can easily be detected at the point of sale to the end-user. Those concerning the producer obligations require investigation into often complex supply chains just to identify the producer.

The UK's RoHS enforcement agency's negative experiences in this regard are reflected in the proposed amendment of the RoHS regulation (see news item 9.11.07). The draft amendment would enable the

Enforcement Authority to require an employee personally, not only the company, to provide relevant information and makes it an offence if he or she fails to supply that information.

Source: Perchards

2.



European plastics recycling industry fears consequences of REACH!

欧洲塑料循环处理行业恐惧 REACH指令带来的后果!

- Difficulties for plastics recyclers could arise!
- Waste plastic does not fall under REACH but once it has been recycled it comes back into the scope of the legislation!

塑料循环处理商将面临更大的困难!

废塑料并不属于REACH指令范围，但是，一旦它被循环处理后，就回到立法的范围中了!

Waste plastics shipments to Asia could increase.

The association of European Plastics Recyclers (EuPR) says it is working to address the potentially “serious consequences” for its industry under the EU’s new chemical legislation REACH. Difficulties for plastics recyclers could arise because waste plastic does not fall under REACH but once it has been recycled it comes back into the scope of the legislation and will need to be supported by a chemical safety assessment. According to EuPR in its most recent newsletter, the two key issues that need to be resolved for plastics recyclers are how to get the information needed to prepare the safety data sheets and whether the recycled material will have to be registered.

On the first issue, EuPR says that in cooperation with the associations of European Plastics Converters (EuPC) and manufacturers, represented by PlasticsEurope, it has proposed the use of generic information to enable the necessary safety assessment to be made for recycled plastic and has drafted a technical guidance note to support this. However, the European Commission had yet to rule on whether this would be acceptable. It would be “unviable” for recyclers to use technology to analyse the molecular structure of the material since this would cost ten times more than the value of the recycled pellet, according to EuPR.

In terms of registration, there is a possible “lifeline” for plastics recyclers in the REACH regulation. Article 2.7 (d) states that substances do not have to be registered if the “same” substance has already been registered by someone else and if the information is available to the recycler, according to the EuPR newsletter. However, the usefulness of this exemption would depend on how the terms “same” and “available” were interpreted by the Commission.

Recycled plastics containing materials used in additives in the past, which are no longer manufactured and therefore not registered under REACH could pose another problem for recycling companies. EuPR is therefore asking for a specific exemption from registration in this case.

EuPR says that if its initiatives fail to gain acceptance, REACH will have “serious consequences”. The organisation says that the chemicals regulation is effectively conflicting with producer responsibility directives such as the packaging and end-of-life vehicle (ELV) directives because it will “stop a lot of recycling taking place” in Europe. EuPR warned that REACH could lead to more secondary raw material being shipped abroad, particularly to China, and returning in the form of manufactured articles which are not subject to the same requirements as European goods.

According to the association’s figures, around 2.1m tonnes of waste plastic were exported from the EU in 2006- around 25 per cent more than in 2005. China and Hong Kong accounted for 88 per cent of the volumes. Figures for the first five months of 2007 suggest that the volume of exports was going to climb again in 2007, according to EuPR.

In this “difficult time” for the plastics industry, the three industry associations are undertaking a survey to get reliable data to give the recyclers, producers and converters a “strong voice” with respect to European institutions. EuPR is leading the mechanical recycling branch of this survey and urges “every single recycler” to participate in this important study.

Source: EUWID

3.

Medicine Going Green!

医药行业趋向绿化!

- Medical imaging is going "green," and several new technologies are poised to enhance the medical imaging and healthcare industry!
- The U.S., well behind the green curve, is trying to catch up!



- 医学影像趋向绿化，提高医学影像学 and 保健业的一些新的技术已经诞生!
- 绿化实施相对落后的美国，正试图迎头赶上!

Forget about the toxic lead-lined MRI suites, and do not throw to the wind the outdated CT systems. Squash the frustration for those MRI bulbs that burn out and take far too long to replace. Medical imaging is going "green," and several new technologies are poised to enhance the medical imaging and healthcare industry.

Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E) is an independent and not surprisingly non-for-profit organization that promotes environmental sustainability in the health care industry. H2E was founded in 1998 with agreements among four organizations (EPA, American Nurses Association, American Hospital Association, and Health Care Without Harm) with the goal of eliminating mercury, reducing chemical waste, and reducing the health care industries overall waste volume. The organization helps hospitals reduce their environmental footprint, from reducing the use of toxic chemicals like carpet glues and PVC to increasing recycling efficiency and disposal of unwanted electronic equipment.

This year more than ever before thanks to the sudden "green" push in the U.S. hospitals are taking a hard look at the materials in their facilities and the potential harmful environmental impact associated with them. It is also beginning to make sense financially, reducing toxicity increasing recycling and curbing waste is effectively reducing costs. In medical economics the hard part may be the "greening" of the chief financial officer who is tasked with balancing the initial cost of change with long-term savings.

Hospitals are extremely focused on the bottom line due to the massive costs of the health business operations and overhead expenses. The long-standing misperception of implementing new environmental programs is that they will cost more money. Although the focus is to be good stewards of health care dollars savings can be realized in waste reduction, extended life cycles of products and water and energy reduction. The bonus is the benefit from enhanced public perception of an environmentally sensitive health care provider.

As with most green ideas these days it costs money up front and pays you on the back end, essentially an investment in green with a guaranteed pay off, often a predictable one. The organizations website offers ideas, information and guidelines promoting green and providing the scoop on local state regulations and resources.

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H2E has 1600 hospital partners and it has also teamed up with the “Green Guide to Healthcare,” a sustainable design toolkit for integrating environmental principles and practices into health care. The guide uses a credit system similar to LEED.

Green Shielding Solutions, a maker of radiology shielding products, is a leading example of a manufacturer operating green. They have partnered with imaging machine component makers Thogus Products and Vulcan Global Manufacturing Solutions to develop tungsten-filled polymer shielding products and parts for medical imaging machines. Tungsten is a brittle metal with a very high melting point and equivalent specific gravity and thickness as lead WITHOUT the toxicity.

This new tungsten product is compliant with the European Union RoHS Directive, which restricts the use of a wide variety of hazardous substances in electronic equipment. The U.S., well behind the green curve, is trying to catch up; legislation similar to that of the European Union is on the table currently. This is pushing the industry to find alternatives to lead given that the legislation calls for a complete ban by the year 2010.

Source: Triplepundit