

Newsletter from January 31th, 2008

1.

WEEE- Austria!

- Austria has shown a rate of CFCs recovery from end-of-life refrigeration equipment of over 91%, the results for Germany are only approximately 40%!
- In Austria the treatment of refrigeration equipment is strictly regulated!



WEEE –奥地利!

- CFCs 数据显示奥地利制冷设备的回收超过91%，而德国只有约40%!
- 奥地利对制冷设备处理的规定非常严格!

Austria has shown excellent results in refrigeration equipment recycling as referred in the study undertaken by Austrian Ministry of Environment. A driver for this study was a similar study of Germany's leading environmental organisation, Deutsche Umwelthilfe (<http://www.duh.de/>), with – however - reverse results. While Austria has shown a rate of CFCs recovery from end-of-life refrigeration equipment of over 91%, the results for Germany are only approximately 40%. The two countries have taken different approaches to environmentally sound recycling of refrigeration equipment. In Germany the air quality regulations (TA Luft) specify the conditions for treatment plants, i.e. leak-tightness test by the relevant regulatory body and the company operating the plant. These tests do not ensure, however, the leaktightness at all times since no systematic mass balance analysis of all CFC input and output streams is required leading to the above mentioned unsuccessful results.

In Austria the treatment of refrigeration equipment is strictly regulated. Recycling companies have to provide detailed data on the input material streams as well as quantities of refrigerants and blowing agents actually recovered. The minimum quantities to be recovered are specified in the Austrian Ordinance on Waste Treatment Obligations and compliance with this legislation has to be provided by undertaking annual tests of the treatment plants and by documenting quantities of received appliances and actual quantities of refrigerants and blowing agents collected at the same period. Also export conditions are strict: the treatment plant in the receiving country has to meet the same requirements as Austrian plant. It is obvious that this situation has to change in Germany and RAL Quality Assurance Association (<http://www.ral-online.org/>) has proposed to adopt a similar approach as in Austria, however, it is not clear yet whether and when the changes will be undertaken.

To read the full article, please go to (only in German):
<http://www.eu-recycling.com/index.html>

As issued in EUWID (No. 1/2 2008) the Austrian WEEE compliance scheme ERA has started cooperation in WEEE management with the international compliance scheme CCR in 2008. In this way ERA is able to offer its customers WEEE compliance in 19 EU countries.

As already mentioned in previous Newsletters, starting with 1 January 2008 the tariffs of ERA have been decreased considerably. For example, for big b2b appliances the tariff has been decreased by 33%. Only

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in categories CRT monitors and lamps no reduction in the tariffs occurred. The reduction is due to consequent implementation of the optimisation strategy and non-profit orientation of the scheme.

We already informed you in our last issue that in Austria there have been some changes at the number of collective WEEE Systems. As CCR Austria GmbH got its approval to work as an independent collective system, we have now six WEEE Schemes acting in Austria:

ERP Austria GmbH:

http://www.erp-recycling.org/contact_austria_eng0.0.html

ERA:

www.era-gmbh.at

EVA:

www.eva.co.at

UFH and UFH Lamps:

www.ufh.at

CCR Austria GmbH:

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http://www.ccrsystems.com/austria/de/home/services/erp_system_austria

Source: KERP

2.

WEEE- International

WEEE -国际!



- European Electronic Recyclers Association (EERA) has published a position paper with the proposals for the revision of WEEE Directive which is planned in 2008!
- EERA proposes also several improvements to the directive such as harmonisation of relevant etc.!

- 欧洲电子废物循环处理协会 (EERA)为建议2008年修订WEEE指令发布了重要文件!
- EERA 提出了一些改进指令的建议，例如适当协调等等!

A voluntary standard on collection, transport, storage and treatment of waste from household cooling and freezing appliances containing CFC, HCFC and HFC has been agreed upon by the household appliance manufacturing industry (CECED), electronic waste compliance schemes (WEEE Forum) and specialist electronics recyclers (EERA). The standard is in line with WEEE Directive 2002/96/EC and Regulation 2037/2000 on substances depleting the ozone layer and specifies requirements related to transport, storage and treatment of appliances containing CFC, HCFC and HFC. It is not the first standard to be agreed upon by the above mentioned actors, one year earlier a standard on treatment of appliances containing hydrocarbons (HC) has been adopted and it is hoped that minimum specifications for all WEEE containing hazardous substances, such as LCD monitors, CRT glass and lamps will follow in the future.

The standard can be freely downloaded here:

http://www.weee-forum.org/docs/CFC%20standard_2007%2012%2014_Final.pdf

To read full article please go to:

http://www.weeeforum.org/docs/CFC%20standard_Press%20release_2008%2001%2021_Final.pdf

European Electronic Recyclers Association (EERA) has published a position paper with the proposals for the revision of WEEE Directive which is planned in 2008. The paper reveals strong critics of the transposition of the directive. The main points are excision of the timelines, uneven playing field due to incorrect transposition of some articles, low collection target, illegal export, unclear recycling standards, ambiguous solution for the B2B equipment and other problems. EERA proposes also several improvements to the directive such as harmonisation of relevant articles, redefinition of reuse, increase the collection targets, definition of clear rules for B2B WEEE, compulsory transfer of WEEE to the authorised treatment and take back systems, improvement of enforcement, etc.

To read the full paper please go to:

<http://www.eerarecyclers.com/member/files/EERA%20Report%20TOWARDS%20SUSTAINABLE%20WEEE%20RECYCLING%2020071224.pdf>

An international electronics recycling congress (IERC) has been held in Salzburg, Austria last week, as reported in EUWID (No. 4/2008). The main topic of the congress was the revision of WEEE Directive in 2008. The participants have agreed that the revision of the Directive is inevitable due to numerous problems and unsolved issues that occurred after the Directive came into force. The participants discussed issues that have to be changed in order for the Directive to work: harmonisation of producer

registration, clear regulation of B2B waste, improvement of control mechanisms in order to enable fair competition, compliance with the recycling standards, improvement of the regulation of waste exports, insuring transfer of WEEE to compliance schemes and other.

Three North American producers, Sharp, Panasonic and Toshiba, have founded a joint venture Electronic Manufacturers Recycling Management Company, LLC (MRM), reports EUWID (No. 4/2008). The company should execute recycling activities and operate for producers and municipalities. The company will start its operations in the beginning of 2009. The main goal of founding a joint recycling organisation is to use the economies of scale and achieve efficiencies by recycling big quantities of equipment. Such producers as Hitachi Electronics, JVC, Mitsubishi, Philips, Pioneer and Sanyo have already signed contracts with MRM.

Source: KERP

3.

Savvy environmental stewardship brings in the green!

- Electronics manufacturers must comply, or lose the ability to sell in certain markets!
- If two products have the same features and the same price, consumers would purchase the one that was better for the environment!



理解环保管理从而促进绿化!

- 电子电气产品生产商必须履行环保法规，否则将失去市场竞争力!
- 如果两种产品的功能和价格相同，消费者更愿意选择有利于环保的产品!

In recent years, we've seen an outpouring of mandates and regulations aimed at making electronic goods (along with their production and disposal) less harmful to the environment. These range from Europe's Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) directives to corporate initiatives, such as Wal-Mart's, that impose "green" imperatives on suppliers. Regardless of the source, these initiatives are not optional. Electronics manufacturers must comply, or lose the ability to sell in certain markets.

On the positive side, consumers want products that illustrate concern for the environment. In the electronics industry, where commoditization has focused the purchase decision on price, the ability to offer green products is an increasingly important differentiator. Indeed, in one study, consumers indicated

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that when choosing between two products with the same features and the same price, they would purchase the one that was better for the environment.

That presents a tremendous opportunity for companies in this industry to do well by doing good. By offering products that are better for the environment, electronics manufacturers can gain a competitive advantage in a highly desirable segment of the market. (J.D. Power reports, for example, that the average income of people who buy hybrid cars is \$113,400 a year.) Other benefits of environmental care include lower production and waste-removal costs as manufacturing practices are made more efficient and as fewer hazardous materials are used.

An environmental stewardship strategy must be backed up by concrete action. Best practices for turning care of the environment into a competitive advantage are presented here.

- Look for the opportunity. Companies that view environmental requirements as little more than additional mandates will focus their efforts on collecting and reporting the necessary compliance data. We suggest adopting a broader point of view that regards care for the environment as a way to open new markets or to gain an edge in existing ones.

In other words, instead of asking, "What do the regulations require?" ask, "What do potential customers, who care about the planet, want from our products?"

The most effective organizations are adopting this focus by creating C-level positions to drive the corporate strategy for environmental stewardship. With direction from that level, protecting the environment can be woven into the company's overall compliance and regulatory efforts, and integrated into its mission.

- Help your engineers design green. The design phase is where you find the greatest ability to address environmental requirements. It is at the concept phase that designers must have access to the most up-to-date information on the material and substance makeup of the components and parts.

Asking design engineers to focus attention on an additional labyrinth of product variables may not go over well. It is possible, however, to automate much of what designers need to consider with regard to environmental care.

There are software tools, for example, that can evaluate the physical content of designs for regulatory compliance and end-of-life requirements. These can be used early in the product life cycle, enabling designers to make decisions on materials and components as the design takes shape. Additionally, such solutions can track market requirements for environmental compliance and validate product readiness for market launch.

- Secure your supply chain. This is especially important, because it is ultimately your company that will pay the cost of noncompliance, whether that cost takes the form of fines, closed markets or the PR nightmare of a product recall.

Companies must establish procedures to ensure an adequate supply of compliant components and to manage the volume of compliance information from suppliers. Applications are available to manage supplier relationships and identify companies with compliant components and processes. Similar to the automated tools that help designers with environmental compliance, these solutions can automatically evaluate final bills of material for compliance with various mandates, as well as generate the required compliance documentation. The tools can identify supply chain problems before they make it into production.

- Use "life cycle thinking" to streamline compliance activities. Companies using product life cycle management (PLM) software have an advantage in adapting to new environmental regulations because

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they have already adopted life cycle thinking--the ability to view a product from concept to end of life. This is important because environmental regulations will require action across the life cycle: in design, as engineers specify components; in purchasing, as suppliers are chosen for their ability to show their commitment; in production, as manufacturing and assembly processes are refined for energy efficiency; in after-sales support, as processes are put in place for product retirement and recycling; and so on.

Life cycle thinking, supported by PLM software, integrates the various stages of the product life cycle (and the data each stage produces) in a way that facilitates compliance with environmental regulations.

For example, when design and manufacturing functions can share data, it is a simple matter to compare the as-designed bill of materials with the as-built BOM to identify component changes made during manufacturing that might result in noncompliance.

In a traditional product development framework, where the various aspects of the development process are distributed, this sort of compliance safety net would take considerably more effort to achieve.

Enabling the product life cycle to foster green design, ensure compliance and support recycling requires additional resources in the short term to extend your company's environmental knowledge and capability. The end result, however, is a streamlined compliance effort.

- Expose and promote your green efforts. With an environmental care plan in place, you can confidently expose what you're doing in the market, while differentiating yourself by promoting the fact that your products and processes are green. This is where real-world competitive advantages--such as enthusiastic new customers--are seen.

When considered from this angle, regulations such as WEEE and RoHS can be seen for what they really are: opportunities that are too good to pass up.

Source: EETIMES