

Newsletter from August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007

### 1. A WEEE call to potentially unregistered producers!

- *4,500 companies will be called!*
- *"if we find a business has flouted the rules and deliberately avoided registering, we will take enforcement action!"*

Unregistered producers of electrical and electronic equipment could be getting a call from the Environment Agency as it continues to raise awareness of the WEEE Regulations.

Liz Parkes, Head of Waste at the Environment Agency, said: "Since 1 July, under the new Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations, separately collected waste electrical and electronic equipment has to be treated and recycled with the producers paying the cost.

"The new rules mean that anyone who produces, brands or imports such goods has to be registered with an approved Producer Compliance Scheme (PCS). The data submitted to us by these schemes shows that the major producers have done this. However we are aware there are smaller businesses obligated under the WEEE Regulations who still haven't registered.

"We realise that as with any new legislation, the regulations may be news to many smaller producers. So, as part of a targeted telephone campaign, we will be calling 4,500 companies who might need to be registered."

A dedicated team of staff will be calling companies who have been identified as potentially being producers to find out if they do need to register. This campaign is part of the Environment Agency's continuing efforts to raise awareness amongst unregistered producers and runs alongside efforts by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR, formerly the DTI), who are also reminding producers of their responsibilities.

Liz Parkes continued: "Our overall priority for 2007 is to ensure those affected by the change in the law are aware of their responsibilities under the new regulations. In the first compliance period, which runs from July to December 2007, we want to help make sure businesses are complying with the new rules.

"However if we find a business has flouted the rules and deliberately avoided registering, we will take enforcement action. These regulations are about protecting our environment and it's important that everyone plays their part."

The Environment Agency has also published an enforcement policy statement, which outlines how it will deal with any producers, compliance schemes and those treating or exporting WEEE who fail to follow the rules.

With electrical waste now one of the fastest-growing waste streams across Europe - expanding at around three times the rate of general waste - the aim of the regulations is to encourage more recycling, recovery and re-use, and ultimately divert more used goods away from landfill.

They place the responsibility for - and the cost of - reducing environmental impact on those who profit from making the goods in the first place. The more electronics a producer puts on the market, the more WEEE it must ensure is dealt with safely. Producer Compliance Schemes have been set up to help those companies affected by the WEEE Regulations by collecting and recycling products on their behalf.

Our enforcement policy statement in detail can be found on our website at [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

For the full list of approved compliance schemes and their contact details, along with further information on the WEEE Regulations, visit [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/weee](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/weee) or contact the Environment Agency on 08708 506 506.

**Source: Materials Handling World**

**2. July brings “substantial collection of small WEEE!”**

- *Waste management company Viridor has reported "substantial amounts" of small domestic appliances being handed in to its local authority sites in the first month of WEEE producer responsibility!*

Waste management company Viridor has reported "substantial amounts" of small domestic appliances being handed in to its local authority sites in the first month of WEEE producer responsibility.

The company operates 93 designated collection facility (DCF) sites for the collection of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) under the WEEE Regulations.

Viridor now operates 93 designated collection facilities for waste electronics, thanks to its nine waste disposal contracts.

The sites are all council civic amenity sites, run under Viridor's nine waste disposal authority contracts and represent 9% of the total UK network of DCFs.

The regulations require producers of electronic goods to fund the collection and recycling of old appliances, and Viridor is working with the producer compliance scheme Electrolink to ensure this happens.

Viridor told [letsrecycle.com](http://letsrecycle.com) today that all of its sites are now within the Electrolink scheme, which means evidence for collected equipment can be used by Electrolink's producer members towards their WEEE Regulation obligations, with surplus evidence sold to other producer compliance schemes.

Electrolink has said it expects to match the number of Viridor DCFs on its network with other sites (see [letsrecycle.com](http://letsrecycle.com) story).

**July figures**

Viridor has revealed that during the month of July, its DCF sites collected 3,674 tonnes of WEEE separately from general waste.

Of the total amount of WEEE collected at the Viridor sites, large domestic appliances represented the bulk of the collection tonnages. However, the amount of small domestic WEEE being handed in by householders - items like kettles, toasters and hairdryers - has been 40% greater than fridge tonnage.

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Viridor is now forecasting that 12,000 tonnes of small domestic appliances will be collected at its sites over the next 12 months.

Bill Griffiths, national recycling manager for Viridor, said: "Not surprisingly the highest tonnage of WEEE is from the large domestic appliance sector. These figures tie in with our predictions after an earlier trial we carried out with West Sussex county council."

"Confusion"

Mr Griffiths said it was still "early days" with regard to the WEEE Regulations, and there was still uncertainty within industry about how to put producer responsibility into practice.

"I believe that there's still some confusion among authorised approved treatment facilities as to how, in practice, the evidence note system is going to work. With Viridor carrying the costs associated with segregating over 3,000 tonnes of WEEE a month, cash flow in from producer compliance schemes is critical," he said.

**Source: letsrecycle.com**

### **3. Global chip plant usage rises!**

- *The global chip plant usage rose from 87.5 percent to reach 89.7 percent in the quarter April-June!*
- *Global orders for chip gear fell 18 percent from a year ago!*

The global chip plant utilization is increasing but it has been held back below 90 percent for a year now despite increasing demand. The memory makers have increased their capacity and even so much that they have made an excess inventory.

Utilisation rate was 89.7 percent in the quarter, up from 87.5 percent in January-March, the Semiconductor International Capacity Statistics (SICAS) group said on Thursday.

Global orders for chip gear fell 18 percent from a year ago to \$10.22 billion in April-June, which was down 4 percent from January-March, industry group Semiconductor Equipment and Materials International said on Wednesday.

Capacity for all integrated circuits rose to 1.99 million silicon wafer starts per week in April-June from 1.89 million per week in the previous quarter and the actual wafer starts, which reflect demand for chips, amounted to 1.78 million a week, compared with 1.65 million the previous quarter.

**Source: Euwid**