

Newsletter of May 29th, 2008

1.



Cost of WEEE recycling is cheap, says Electrolink !

Electrolink表示, WEEE循环处理的费用很低 !

- The cost to the electronics industry is as little as a "tuppence on a toaster", claims producer compliance scheme (PCS) Electrolink!
- As we look forward to 2008, indications are that unit costs could well be lower than in 2007!

- Electrolink抱怨道, 此费用对于电子工业来说少得微不足道!
- 我们展望2008年, 各种迹象均显示费用可能会低于2007年!

Data released by the Environment Agency detailing the tonnage of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) disposed of during the first compliance period shows the cost to the electronics industry is as little as a "tuppence on a toaster", claims producer compliance scheme (PCS) Electrolink.

Electrolink carried out a financial impact analysis of the data for the period July 1 2007 to December 31 2007 which shows that the cost of the WEEE regulations to the electronics industry has been kept to a minimum. The Regulations require manufacturers to pay for the recycling of WEEE that is deposited at local authority civic amenity sites.

The compliance scheme's analysis shows that a washing machine sold during the period would cost 22 pence to recycle, a new refrigerator cost £4.45 to recycle and a new flat TV screen £3.48. Electrolink said the total cost of WEEE recycling for the electronics industry was likely to be less than £30 million.

The data follows a joint statement released by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR), the Environment Agency (EA) and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency that schemes can now receive details of their final obligations for financing the collection, treatment, recovery and disposal of household WEEE.

Electrolink chief executive Barry Van Danzig said: "The first compliance process for the UK is nearly complete and early fears that the costs would spiral out of control and electronic companies would suffer

bankruptcy or hardship can now be laid to rest. As we look forward to 2008, indications are that unit costs could well be lower than in 2007, so the arguments about the costs and the process all amount to very little when we consider that it is nothing more than a tuppence on a toaster.”

Source: www.rwm.info.com

2.

Competition heats up to provide battery compliance !

竞争的激烈促使了电池指令被遵守 !

- The transposition of the EU Batteries Directive into UK law due this September!
- With BatteryBack starting operations as a not-for-profit company seeking to gain input from battery manufacturers, retailers and local authorities!

- 欧盟电池指令将于今年9月份转换为英国法律!
- 作为一个不牟取利益的公司开始电池的回收行动，从而从电池制造商，零售商和地方当局获得更多的投入量!



Two WEEE producer compliance scheme providers have stepped up their efforts to build links with the batteries industry ahead of the transposition of the EU Batteries Directive into UK law due this September, writes Nick Mann.

Leeds-based WasteCare is to launch a free national recovery service on July 1, while Valpak is set to increase its efforts to attract interest from batteries manufacturers and importers for its own pre-compliance scheme.

WasteCare's chief executive, Peter Hunt, told *letsrecycle.com* that BatteryBack was being established in

an attempt to avoid the "pandemonium" that was experienced when the EU directive for waste electronics and electrical equipment (WEEE) was introduced in the UK last July.

"What we don't want to happen again is that there was pandemonium when the regulations came through," he explained, referring to the large number of producer compliance schemes that sprang up when the WEEE regulations were introduced.

"We're not going to end up with the same bun-fight as last time," he added, with BatteryBack starting operations as a not-for-profit company seeking to gain input from battery manufacturers, retailers and local authorities.

However, BatteryBack plans to offer a charging compliance scheme to companies under the legislation, the nature of which will depend on how the Batteries Directive is regulated in the UK.

The initial service will use WasteCare's existing network of collection vehicles which serve more than 30,000 businesses and local authorities. The company hopes to collect batteries from specially-designed BatteryCans placed at civic amenity sites, schools and supermarkets.

Once collected, the batteries will be sent to one of two sites in Belgium operated by Revatech, where they will be processed using a wet recycling system for alkaline and zinc-carbon batteries know as Revabat.

Mr Hunt said that he believed using combined collections and collections from supermarkets, schools and other large buildings represented the cheapest option for collection while providing sufficient quantities to get the UK past a 30% recycling target.

"What we're looking to do is encourage the most cost-effective route where the volume's going to come in," he said. "It keeps the costs down, gets the quickest rollout and gets us to targets."

Uncertainty

The launch of the WasteCare scheme comes despite there being uncertainty over exactly what batteries manufacturers and importers involved in the UK market will have to do to meet their producer obligations when the new regulations come into force.

The Government is yet to publish the results of a major consultation, held between December 2007 and March 2008, examining potential methods by which the UK could reach its target of recycling 25% of household batteries by 2012.

And the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) plans to hold a further consultation on the collection, treatment and recycling processes included within the Directive over the summer.

As a result, BERR officials have admitted that the September deadline may come and go without the final UK regulations being in place (see letsrecycle.com story) and Mr Hunt said that "we're now not expecting the new regulations until early 2009".

Responses to the government consultation revealed support from bodies including LARAC and WRAP for a single nationwide compliance scheme to allow producers to meet their recycling obligations (see letsrecycle.com story), and Mr Hunt indicated that, if that was the method introduced, BatteryBack would bid for that.

However, Mr Hunt also explained that, if the eventual system found a BatteryBack compliance scheme competing against rival companies, he would hope to win as much business as possible.

"If somebody comes up with an alternative then let's see what they have to offer and how competitive they are," he said. "I don't want there to be a monopoly, I would much rather there be more than one scheme and obviously not 20 or 30".

Valpak

WasteCare are not the first company to make preparations for the implementation of the Batteries Directive, with Valpak launching its 'pre-compliance' scheme last year (see letsrecycle.com story).

Speaking to letsrecycle.com today about the progress of the scheme, Valpak's marketing manager, Duncan Simpson, said: "I believe we've got just under 50 names, and some of the big players are involved."

"In many respects we think the main thing at the moment is to identify the people who will be obligated for batteries," he added, explaining that the company was looking to attract interest from both small and large players in the industry.

Valpak looks set to be in direct competition with WasteCare in the event of there being either a single or multiple compliance scheme system with Mr Simpson revealing that "if there's a single scheme we'd bid for that, if there was a competitive system, then that's what we'd like to see, because its good for the industry and good for competition".

"I'm sure that there will be a number of people coming into the regulations," he said, "But Valpak has a lot of experience since 1997."

"We've started putting together data handling systems and we've started our marketing drive," he added.

Source: www.letsrecycle.com

3.

EU RoHS exemption of Deca-BDE annulled by European Court of Justice !

欧盟RoHS指令的Deca-BDE豁免被欧洲司法法院取消 !

- On April 1, 2008, the European Court of Justice has annulled the decabromodiphenyl ether exemption to the EU RoHS directive!
- This will be effective from July 1, 2008 !
- 欧洲司法法院于2008年04月01日取消欧盟RoHS指令十氯代联苯醚的豁免!
- 2008年7月01日正式生效 !



On April 1, 2008, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) has annulled the decabromodiphenyl ether (Deca-BDE) exemption to the EU Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) directive. This will be effective from July 1, 2008.

RoHS Directive came into force in 2006, requiring that electrical and electronic equipment put on the market in EU do not contain certain banned substances in quantities exceeding maximum concentration values. The banned substances are lead, mercury, hexavalent chromium, polybrominated biphenyls (PBB), and polybrominated diphenyls ethers (PBDE).

The directive 2005/717/EC, published on 13 Oct 2005, officially exempted Deca-BDE in polymeric application from the RoHS Directive. However, the recent judgment by ECJ ruled AGAINST the European Commission's (EC) decision to exempt Deca-BDE, stating that the EC used an incorrect criterion, an EU risk assessment as the basis for exemption.

Deca-BDE is commonly used as a retardant in many electronic devices such as TV sets, computers, appliances, plugs, and cable applications. Deca-BDE is known to be a very widespread chemical substance. Research has shown that Deca-BDE is found in human breast milk and blood. The bio-accumulation of Deca-BDE in wildlife such as birds, fish, and even polar bears has also been observed. Even if some studies show that Deca-BDE itself is non-hazardous to the environment, it may undergo partial degradation and subsequently form other PBDEs. Those may be potentially more toxic, persistent, and bioaccumulative substances than Deca-BDE and even be prohibited by international regulations.

So far, some industries and electrical and electronic brands have voluntarily eliminated the use of Deca-BDE in manufacturing processes and are looking for alternatives to replace Deca-BDE. Norway recently has banned Deca-BDE in all consumer products including electrical and electronic devices with some exemptions in the transport sector. The ban in Norway is already effective since April 1, 2008.

The use of Deca-BDE in polymer application was exempt from the RoHS requirements by directive 2005/717/EC. This exemption is now annulled. Thus, after June 30 2008 Deca-BDE will be prohibited again in electrical and electronic products in the EU.

Throughout our global network of laboratories, we are able to provide a range of services including analytical testing and consultancy for a comprehensive range of flame retardants, including Deca-BDE in electrical and electronic products. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further details.

Source: SAFEGUARDS