



14.2.2005

NEW OBLIGATIONS FOR THE MANUFACTURERS AND IMPORTERS OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

New legislation under Finland's Waste Act on producer responsibility and a Council of State decree on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) will come into force on 13.8.2005. All producers' organisations and producers not belonging to such organisations must formally submit producer data by 15.5.2005 to the official producer data register maintained by the Pirkanmaa Regional Environment Centre. The Waste Act (Section 36, Paragraph 3) appoints the Pirkanmaa Environment Centre as Finland's national authority for supervising producers, producer organisations, and their compliance with legislation on producer responsibility for waste management.

Producer responsibility in practice

Producers are obliged to ensure that the products they supply to the markets, and the wastes they constitute at the end of their use, are suitably reused, recovered or otherwise disposed of, while also covering the costs involved.

Who does producer responsibility apply to?

The producers of electrical and electronic equipment include manufacturers, importers, and any retailers selling such equipment under their own trademark.

The category *waste electrical and electronic household appliances* also includes end-of-use equipment from industrial, business and institutional premises etc. wherever such equipment is comparable in quantity and quality to household appliances.

Producers' obligations

Producers must:

- ensure that a national network of collection points for WEEE is set up
- act jointly to ensure that suitable waste management systems are available to deal with all electrical and electronic household appliances brought onto the market before 13.8.2005

- meet their share of future waste management costs according to the costs incurred in dealing with their own products brought on to the market after 13.8.2005
- provide assurance that adequate funds will be available to cover waste management costs related to household appliances brought on to the market after 13.8.2005. A producer's membership of a producer organisation is a sufficient guarantee in this respect.
- be responsible for meeting the costs incurred during the management of waste electrical and electronic household appliances from sources other than households wherever products are brought onto the market after 13.8.2005
- also be responsible for meeting the costs incurred during the management of waste electrical and electronic household appliances from sources other than households where products were brought onto the market *before* 13.8.2005, wherever these appliances are replaced with other equipment used for the same purposes
- register all appliances brought onto the market after 13.8.2005 as specified in the relevant legislation
- provide the necessary technical details and guidelines for consumers and waste handlers
- register with the Pirkanmaa Regional Environment Centre, and subsequently submit annual reports for the official producer data register
- ensure that sufficient information and advice is available concerning the collection and recovery of waste electrical and electronic equipment

Distributors' obligations

Retailers and other distributors of electrical and electronic equipment must be prepared to take possession of discarded electrical and electronic household appliances whenever new appliances are purchased for the same purposes, or to tell purchasers where they may take their used appliances, in which case they should be involved in the organisation of such services.

Producer responsibility can be transferred to producer organisations

Producers may pool their responsibilities by joining producer organisations, or making agreements with such organisations. A producer's responsibilities related to waste recovery may be legally transferred to such an organisation on the condition that their membership of or agreement with the organisation is duly recorded in the producer data register kept by the Pirkanmaa Regional Environment Centre.

Producer organisations in Finland are listed below with contact details.

Producer organisations within the Elker Group:

ELKER Oy (Umbrella organisation and service provider)

www.elker.fi

Managing Director Mr. Veikko Hintsanen, tel. +358 50 4088956, veikko.hintsanen@elker.fi

SELT (Electrical and electronic equipment producer organisation)

www.selt.fi

Representative Ms. Tarja Hailikari, tel. +358 9 6963 722, tarja.hailikari@sstl.fi

ICT-Tuottajaosuuskunta (Producers' Co-operative)

www.ict-tuottajaosuuskunta.fi

Representative Mr. Klaus Katara, tel. +358 9 6824 1311, klaus.katara@tkl.fi

Finnish Lamp Importers and Producers (FLIP)

www.flip.fi

Chairman Mr. Markku Nikki, Tel. +358 400 445 623, markku.nikki@philips.com

SERTY Oy (WEEE Producer Community)

www.serty.fi

Managing Director Mr. Timo Valkonen, tel. +358 9 2705 2840, timo.valkonen@ser-tuottajayhteiso.fi

For more information:

More detailed information about producer responsibility in Finland, and the relevant official registration and reporting forms can be found at <http://www.ymparisto.fi/tuottajavastuu>. Producers may also refer to legislation including recent amendments to the Waste Act (452/2004), and the Council of State Decree on waste electrical and electronic equipment (852/2004). This legislation is available (in Finnish only) on the website <http://www.finlex.fi>.

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