



Office for Product  
Safety & Standards



## THE WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS 2013 (WEEE)

### Retailer / Distributor Obligations, Made Simple

#### Why the Regulations Exist?

Electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) is regulated to reduce the amount of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) incinerated or sent to landfill sites. Reduction is achieved through various measures which encourage the recovery, reuse and recycling of products and components. The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013 (as amended) is the underpinning UK legislation.

#### Introduction

#### The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment – a definition

Under the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013, All businesses must offer free 'takeback' of waste electrical and electronic equipment.

#### Distributors – a definition

The definition of distributors under the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013, is any business that retails electrical and electronic equipment directly to the UK customers **MUST** provide a process of takeback on waste electrical and electronic equipment, on a like for like basis.

#### What are your options...

- You can have a collection point at all premises from where you supply electrical or electronic equipment. This applies if you run a shop, a chain of shops or sell online, by mail order or telephone. You must offer takeback on a like for like basis, for example on a sale of a new toaster, the customer must be able to bring back their old toaster, regardless of make or model.

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- If your business sells £100,000 or more of EEE per year and/or has physical stores, you no longer qualify for the Distributor Takeback Scheme (DTS). You'll need to take back waste in store or set up an alternative collection point instead.
- Online stores can join Distributor Takeback Scheme -  
Valpak will assist you with DTS at [www.valpak.co.uk](http://www.valpak.co.uk)

### **Smaller retailers and distributors**

Speak to a compliance scheme operator - they may offer a collection.

### **CONTACT US:**

Safety & Standards helpdesk: **0121 345 1201**  
Monday to Thursday 09:00 to 17:00, Friday 09:00 to 16:00

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The obligations discussed this short leaflet are legal requirements.

The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) regulation requires UK distributors to maximise separate collection and environmentally friendly processing of WEEE. UK distributors (including retailers) are required to provide a system which allows all customers buying new electrical equipment the opportunity to recycle their old items free of charge. As a responsible retailer, we have met these requirements by offering all customers buying new electrical and electronic equipment free take-back of their old electricals on a like-for-like basis.

