



# WEEE Responsibilities

## Data Protection Act 2018

## Environmental Protection Act 1990

## LEGISLATION

### Find out about your responsibilities

#### WEEE Directive

The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive (WEEE Directive) was introduced into UK law in January 2007 by the Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment Regulations 2006. It aims to encourage people to reuse and recycle electronic items in order to reduce the amount of new electronic equipment entering the market every day. The directive also strives to ensure that companies which work closely with technology improve their environmental record.

This directive concerns businesses that supply, manufacture, use or recover and recycle electronics. Businesses that import, rebrand or manufacture new electronic equipment are extremely likely to be bound by the United Kingdom's WEEE regulation. In this case, the business has to register on a producer compliance scheme. Sellers and companies that dispose of electronic equipment also have some WEEE responsibilities.

Since 2007, the WEEE regulations have applied to a **closed scope** of products that excluded certain products, but as of 2019 the regulations moved to an **open scope** under which all products that require an electrical current to function are in-scope, unless they are covered by an exemption. Products such as plugs, sockets and switches are now in scope of WEEE regulations under category 2, household luminaires, which have had a specific exclusion for the regulations since 2007, come under category 5, and distribution boards will be in-scope under category 9 and applied to the 2019 regulations.

In 2020 the Government will set a national recycling target that is then divided amongst each Producer Compliance Scheme and according to the market share of its members. A members market share is calculated from the weight of in-scope products that they declare in their reports.

According to the Environment Agency, electrical and electronic equipment is the fastest growing waste stream in the UK. Electrical equipment that ends up in landfill sites can seriously harm the natural environment by contaminating soil and water, which can harm wildlife and human health. One of the key objectives of the WEEE directive is to reduce the amount of electrical products entering landfill sites in the UK, which is set to be achieved by placing an obligation on producers to provide free and accessible recycling services to their customers.

#### Data Protection Act 2018

The Data Protection Act is the main piece of legislation that governs the protection of personal data in the UK. The Act was updated in 2018 to include specific provision for electronic data and set out eight principles of data protection. Of major note should be the legal responsibility for the Data Controller within an organisation to adhere to these principles - including the secure removal of all electronic data from equipment entering the public domain. Whilst the tangible penalties can be quantified and are often fierce, it is often the litigation that results from negligent behaviour relating to data security that causes the most damage to the reputation of a business and this is much more difficult to measure.

#### Environmental Protection Act 1990

The Environmental Protection Act establishes the 'duty of care' in relation to the handling of all waste, including IT waste. This legislative measure lays down that the person or persons responsible for waste arising from a business must ensure that disposal takes place in an environmentally sound and ethical manner. Typically this includes ensuring that waste equipment is passed only to an Authorised Waste Carrier and handled only by Authorised Waste Management facilities. Both individuals and company representatives can face serious legal consequences should they ignore this obligation.

## Total peace of mind solutions from the specialists in IT Disposal

Whether you need a simple, free IT disposal service or are looking for a partner who can handle your complex requirements, Green IT Disposal are here to take care of everything for you every step of the way. We provide a complete worry-free service to give you just what you need. Total peace of mind.

- ICO Registered
- Approved by the Environmental Agency

We are committed to the highest standards of excellence to ensure that quality is maintained throughout the process. Below are some of our current accreditations.



Environment  
Agency

Registered with the  
Environment Agency  
Reg No. NC2/061580/2020



For further advice on our services:

**Tel: 0161 928 1144**

**Enquiries@greenitdisposal.co.uk**

**www.greenitdisposal.co.uk**

Nationwide service local to you

**Glasgow 0141 370 2298**

**Leeds 0113 819 8146**

**London 020 3795 5958**

