



Work Package 2:WEEE Actors and Amounts

Deliverable 2.2

Report on WEEE components and recycling



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Enforcement agencies are key actors in the fight against illegal trade of WEEE. It is therefore essential that they have an understanding of WEEE, its treatment, its various components and the dismantling process.

The CWIT project partners organised a visit to a WEEE treatment plant in Seville (Spain) on 18 June 2014. The RECILEC WEEE treatment plant located in the south of Spain is authorised to deal with all WEEE categories as defined by the WEEE Directive. A workshop was held to enable the Consortium members to become familiar with WEEE and the requirements for proper treatment. The event gathered representatives of the main WEEE actors for a fruitful debate on the drivers and current situation of the WEEE illegal trade in the country. After presentations regarding the treatment of WEEE, the logistics processes, and the legal framework, a presentation on the WEEE TRACE project¹ described a possible solution to improve WEEE traceability.

The outcome of this visit is Deliverable 2.2, which includes a concise guide on WEEE addressed to enforcement agencies. The first part of Deliverable 2.2 comprises a description of the activities that were carried out during the site visit and a set of conclusions of the debate with WEEE actors. Two main points were highlighted during the debate: the relevance of collection points (as they often represent the first step in the invisible flows of WEEE), and the need for improving controls and monitoring in the transfers of WEEE. The second part of the document comprises a concise guide on WEEE intended for enforcement agencies. It starts with the definition of WEEE, and demonstrates the complexity of the WEEE classification by describing the most relevant classification lists in force, such as the WEEE Directive, European Waste Catalogue, Basel Convention codes etc.

The guide provides a brief description of the actors participating in the WEEE value chain (producers, compliance schemes, collection points, WEEE management industry) etc. This information is followed by a basic explanation on the regulations that govern trans-boundary movements of WEEE (Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006). The document provides some tips on the processes (notification or general information) that actors involved in WEEE exports need to carry out.

Following this, the guide includes an overview of the composition of WEEE and the different WEEE categories are compared on the basis of how much was collected of each stream in 2010 at European level. This will help understand the specific weight of each category regarding the volume of collection in Europe.

In the next section of the guide the composition of each WEEE category is described along with their environmental weight. This section provides information on the characteristics of the components and materials that WEEE is made up of, explaining hazardous and non-hazardous substances and their treatment needs. The different kinds of appliances have to be managed in a different way when it comes to sales, collection and their final treatment as waste. Schemas showing the main treatment steps for WEEE are included in this section.

The guide provides a few tips on the economic drivers of WEEE illegal trade. This topic will be further developed in work packages 4, 5 and 6 of the CWIT project. This section reveals that the two main drivers of the illegal trade of WEEE are the value of the WEEE components and the costs of proper treatment.

Finally, the guide summarises the existing treatment standards developed especially for managing WEEE. These standards provide guidelines for the treatment operators to avoid the aforementioned negative environmental and health effects during the treatment of WEEE. It should be noted that the guide is a concise document, and it includes a list of manuals aimed at enforcement agencies that will provide further information and deep knowledge on the topics discussed in this document.

¹ <http://www.weee-trace.eu/>