

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment **Regulations 2007**

(Referred to as “the WEEE Regulations”).

The broad aim of the Directive is to address the environmental impacts of electrical and electronic equipment when it reaches the end of its life and to encourage its separate collection, subsequent treatment, re-use, recovery, recycling and environmentally sound disposal.

All new EEE (products or packaging) should be marked with the crossed out wheeled bin symbol. This symbol aims to encourage the householder to separate out his/her WEEE and to discard it separately from other household waste.



Crossed out wheeled bin symbol

Retailers choosing to provide in-store take-back services for householders should do so:

- On a like-for-like basis on the purchase of a new equivalent item or an item which has the same or similar functions; and
- for all types of WEEE they sell from those premises.

The householder has the right of return where the waste equipment is of equivalent type or fulfils the same function as the new equipment being supplied. The interpretation of this should take account of technological developments and improvements in functionality. Consumers will often buy new products with more or improved functions to replace old ones. So, the product being purchased and the waste product being returned need not be absolutely identical in all respects.

The Government expects retailers and householders to adopt a common sense approach to the issue of what is "like-for-like" in respect of take-back. For example, a consumer buying a new LED head torch would be entitled to the take-back of one old hand torch or a filament bulb head torch as WEEE. You would not be able to take back a completely different type of equipment, for example a returned head torch for a new GPS.