



WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT COMPLIANCE SCHEME



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The Year 2020

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff hope that this communication finds you well and healthy. COVID-19 was a very unexpected event for all of us and we hope that we will slowly return to a new normality in the forthcoming months.

Renewal of Registration with the Competent Authority

WEEE MALTA has renewed the registration of three hundred and eighty (380) producer members with the Competent Authority, ERA (the Environment and Resources Authority) on the 29th May 2020. As you are aware, ERA has extended renewals until the end of May 2020 in relation to the calendar year 2020 due to COVID-19. This extension was granted after the Scheme requested this additional time frame. The Scheme has reported a total registration market placement of just over 5,800 tons.

Mitigation Measures Taken by the Scheme Relating to COVID-19

Like in every other sector, COVID-19 has taken us by storm and since the generation of any type of waste emanates from different waste streams, one had to linger for a while before understanding within limits how this would affect the Scheme. From March to May collections of WEEE, both by the Scheme and also at Civic Amenity sites, has reduced, mainly due to the reduced operations by producers, although the outlets selling most EEE were classified essential and remained open with strict mitigation measures.



A sizable number of producers stopped payments to the Scheme and consequently the Scheme requested ERA as the Competent Authority to release the current financial guarantee of €183,261.00 currently held in the form of a cash collateral in order to continue full operations without hiccups. This request was not acceded to by the Competent Authority and therefore the Scheme had to resort to the following remedial actions:

1. As of May 01, 2020 all collections from Wasteserv Malta Limited of any nature were stopped. This included weekly export of trailers to final recycling facilities in Italy. In addition, collections for local disassembly and treatment was also ceased.
2. The Scheme also had to stop collections from those WEEE producers who did not pay the first quarter of 2020.

Both mitigation measures remain in place until further notice.



Results for Logistical Operations in 2019

by Sergio Mallia

At the moment the Scheme is finalizing the annual and audit reports for 2019 to be submitted by end of June as per the Scheme's permit. We are pleased to announce that we had an increase in collection rates for the 4th consecutive year. Last year, WEEE Malta managed to collect 1,654 tons of WEEE, 187 tons or 12% more than in 2018.

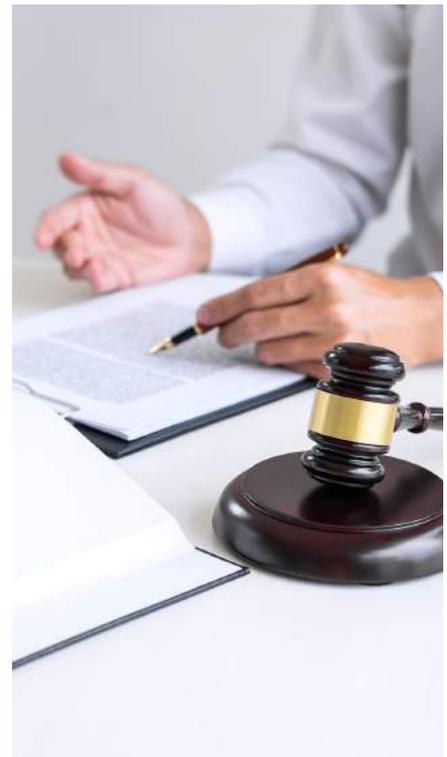
In terms of the collection target, the Scheme reached 25.25% of the total EEE placed on the Market by our producer members. Although we have increased collections during the past year, we need to collect much more to reach the national collection rate which this year is at 60%.

Working with Local Authorities to pick up more WEEE from Civic Amenity sites and collection points and encouraging more people to become involved in recycling in their community continue to be an important part of our strategy. In 2019, the Scheme collected over 880 tons of WEEE from CA Sites, mostly refrigerators and screens. In fact, our figures show that the Scheme collected over 100% of its target in Category 2 (screens). This is due to the fact that we are still receiving a lot of CRT Screens at disposal sites compared to the lighter weight of flat screens being put on the market. When one compares per sub-category, in Category 1 the Scheme is reaching targets in terms of fridges and freezers but do not reach the whole target due to very low collection rates of air-conditioners.

WEEE Malta and its Relations with Local Authorities

WEEE MALTA notes that relations with local Authorities including the Ministry for The Environment, Climate Change and Planning, and the Environment and Resources Authority, leave much to be desired.

A Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Stakeholders Group set up in 2015 has now become a paper work group and barely meet twice a year. This does not auger a better implementation of the WEEE Directive and adding insult to injury, ERA lacks continued discussion formats over so many pending issues. Meetings are only held if the Scheme asks for them and the word consultation has become a part of history.



Judicial Protest by WEEE Malta Against the Authorities

The Board unanimously decided to submit a judicial protest against the Authorities as a number of basic issues relating to the well-functioning of WEEE Schemes in Malta are not being implemented by the Government.

The Judicial Protest was submitted in December 2019. A full copy of the Judicial protest can be seen online on the website www.weemalta.org including the counter protest received in May 2020 from the said Authorities.

The Scheme will be providing detailed information on the matter following a due meeting of the Board to decide on the strategy beyond the Authorities response.

WEEE Malta and the WEEE Forum

WEEE MALTA is an active member of the WEEE Forum, an umbrella organization which started with EU Schemes and over the last four years has expanded to 40 WEEE Compliance Schemes globally.



The WEEE Forum is the leading organization worldwide relating to WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment). WEEE Malta was appointed to the Board of Directors of the WEEE Forum in 2017 and has this month been appointed once again to the Board for the coming four years until May 2024. Other Board members emanate from France, Spain, Portugal, Romania, the Netherlands and Switzerland. Mr Jan Vlak, CEO of WEEE Recycle in the Netherlands has been elected as President of the WEEE Forum for the period.

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WEEE MALTA

VOLUME 1

CREATED BY MONIKA KUCEROVA



WEEE Malta is an Authorised Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Not for Profit Compliance Scheme set up by The Chamber of SME's in Malta.

Contact us on 2149 6965/6 during office hours or visit our website www.weemalta.org for further information.