

OCAD3E

Coordinating compliance scheme for Waste of Electrical and Electronic Equipments

Technical Note

**Application of the criteria
relating to the environmental contribution
modulation**



Context:

The specifications relating to the new accreditation of the WEEE compliance schemes indicates that the “amount of contributions collected by the holder from its producers members is, for similar household electrical and electronic equipments, modulated according to environmental criteria related to the end of life of these equipments and do not transfer pollution to another lifecycle of these equipments. These criteria are related to the reparability and the reuse, the cleanup, the recyclability of household electrical and electronic equipments or, when a link between prevention of waste can be done, to the life of these household electrical and electronic equipments.

For each household electrical and electronic equipment concerned, the fee collected by the holder is modulated according to at least one environmental criterion related to the end of life of the equipment involved.”

As reminder, the chosen criteria and modulation amplitudes are:

Equipments	Modulation criteria of the contribution	Amplitude modulation of the contribution
Cat. 1: Equipment producing cold and refrigerant circuit	Presence of refrigerant fluid whose GWP > 15	+ 20%
Cat. 2: Hoovers	Presence of plastic parts > 25 grams containing brominated flame retardant	+ 20%
Cat. 3: Cell phones	Lack of universal charger (criterion applicable since the publication of the international standard)	+ 100%
Cat. 3: Laptop computers	Presence of lamps containing mercury and presence of plastic parts > 25 grams containing brominated flame retardant	+ 20%
Cat. 4: Screens	Presence of lamps containing mercury and presence of plastic parts > 25 grams containing brominated flame retardant	+ 20%
Cat. 5: Lamps	Exclusively LED source	- 20%

The different compliance schemes received, from their members producers, several issues about these modulation criteria.

This WEEE compliance schemes technical note, which has been the subject of a consultation with MEEDDeM, ADEME (Environmental French Agency), France Nature Environnement Association and electrical and electronic equipment producer's associations, aims to provide the necessary details to help producers of electrical and electronic equipments involved in the modulation of the contribution to better understand their obligations.

Applicable specifications

Presence of refrigerant fluid whose GWP > 15

The GWP are those defined by the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) in its report "Working Group I Fourth Assessment Report "The Physical Science Basis" (memo: for information, the GWP are defined in chapter 2, paragraph 2.10.2 of the document: <http://www.ipcc-wg1.unibe.ch/publications/wg1-ar4/wg1-ar4.html>): these are direct GWPs based on a fixed horizon to 100 years. As IPCC does not provide data for hydrocarbon as isobutene, propane, etc., GWPs of these fluids are considered inferior to 15.

Concerned fluids are those in the cooling circuit, but also those in the foam insulation. Dehumidifiers are included as equipment subjected to the visible fee. Heat pumps and e fortiori tumble driers with heat pump are not affected by the modulation.

Presence of lamps containing mercury in some TVs and laptop computers.

The backlighting of some flat screens (LCD technology) is done with a grid of gas discharge lamps that contain mercury. This technology requires dismantling the screens in order to remove the lamps without breaking them. The CRT, plasma, OLED technologies or the LCD screens with LED backlighting are not concerned by this criterion.

Presence of plastic parts > 25 grams containing brominated flame retardant (BFR)

Plastics concerned by the modulation: each homogeneous part weighing more than 25 grams; for example: mechanical plastic parts, including hulls, cases, structural components.

Plastics excluded from the modulation: plastics from printed circuit boards, plastics from the cables, power supplies plastic laptops.

Minimum levels regarding BFRs: European Commission Decision of August 18th 2005 amending Directive RoHS 2002/95/EC (transposed in France by decree of November 25th 2005) for two brominated flame retardants that are PBBs and PBDEs: “a maximum concentration of 0.1% by weight of polybrominated (PBB) and polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE) is tolerated in homogenous materials. BFRs are therefore taken into account if for each plastic part > 25 grams (without cables and printed circuits) their concentration exceeds 0.1% by weight.”

Cables and power supplies for laptops, which are excluded from the “Presence of plastic parts > 25 grams containing brominated flame retardant” criterion will be technically studied by the compliance schemes in order to determine the relevance of their later consideration for this criterion.

Absence of universal charger (criterion applicable from publication of international technical standard).

As mentioned in the specifications relating to the new accreditations of compliance schemes in the WEEE sector, the implementation of this criterion is expected to be delayed until publication of UCS standard (Universal Charging Solution).

Supporting to provide:

1. The list in electronic format by category, as defined in Annex 1A of Directive 2002/96/EC and by product, within the meaning of Annex 1B of Directive 2002/96/EC (telephones, TVs...) precisising catalog references (or product lines with catalog references) benefiting from modulation criteria (i.e. list of eco-designed products according to criteria above) for an eventual further control during audits of producer's put on market data by compliance schemes or by auditors designated by them.
2. For eco-designed products, producers agree to provide at its expenses, upon request from compliance schemes:
 - A technical proof of the classification of the product in “eco-designed” category, including, when appropriate, the chemical group in which the flame retardants used are included.
 - One of the concerned products in order to make a possible physical checking, if necessary destructive.