

UK WEEE ADVISORY BODY STANDARD FOR REUSE OF WEEE

The WEEE Advisory Body (WAB) was established in December 2007 as an independent public body to provide advice to the UK Government on matters relating to the implementation of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive and the UK WEEE Regulations.

The WAB is a non departmental advisory body operating at arms length and reporting to BIS (Department for Business Innovation & Skills). Members were appointed on an independent basis to represent particular areas/fields of expertise and experience relevant to the WEEE Regulations and are not delegates of particular organisations or interest groups.

A WAB 'Stakeholder Event' held in July 2008 identified the need for a reuse standard to: -

1. Increase reuse of WEEE in accordance with WEEE Directive & UK Regs
2. Assure consumers / users used WEEE is safe after specific testing
3. Encourage job creation in reuse & refurbishment organisations
4. Reduce WEEE disposed to landfill
5. Provide a tool to combat illegal exports of WEEE under sham 'reuse' guise
6. Offer a solution to an international need for all of the above.

The WAB Reuse Task Group was set up to develop a reuse specification. Participant experts were invited from WEEE manufacturers, environmental regulators, government departments, local government, standards bodies, recyclers, environmental consultants, reuse specialists and academics, including STEP and UNU.

After a series of meetings and on-line discussions that included the requirements for reuse set out in Annex I of the WEEE Directive Recast draft of October 2008, a consensus draft was agreed in May 2009. BIS provided funding for a contract with the British Standards Institution who is now developing the WAB Reuse Specification as a Publicly Available Specification – due by November 2010.

Outline of the WAB Reuse Specification

1. **Process** - Must be documented for audit purposes
2. **Visual Inspection** ~ to identify exposed wiring, cracked casing, missing parts, water or cosmetic damage
3. **Electrical Safety Test** - Comply with the tests for safety as specified in the IEC Code of Practice
4. **Functionality Test** - to meet the ordinary use for which it was originally placed on the market. Product specific protocols may be needed (e.g. for computers, TVs, mobile phones, refrigerators, etc.)
5. **Data Eradication** - Of protected data & non-transferable software using eradication tools approved for such by Government security organisations
6. **Repair** - Only manufacturer specified genuine, generic or refurbished genuine parts used for safety or system critical functions, Pattern parts ok in non safety or system critical repairs and repaired items to be retested
7. **Authorised Software Use** - Use of unlicensed software not permitted
8. **Traceability / Identification** – Items tracked at all process stages & records for inspection
9. **Reuse Label** - A Label shall be applied to items that have successfully completed an evaluation in accordance with this specification and contain Reuse organisation name, Contact details and reuse organisation identification, Date test completed, Unique Item identification Number (OEM serial number or reuse organisation number), Reference to the tests having been carried out in accordance with this specification.
10. **Disassembly** - Minimise risk of damage to reusable parts, Reusable parts identified by type, Any parts test process documented, Untested parts identified as such, Parts stored in suitable environment
11. **Competence** - Competence of reuse workers assessed & suitable training provided plus suitable tools & equipment provided
12. **Careful Handling** - Used items to be handled carefully to facilitate reuse, Documented process to separate WEEE from WEEE, Hazardous items stored in safe manner
13. **Description of Reused WEEE** - Reused / Refurbished / Used / Second Hand equipment
14. **Export for Reuse or Recycling** - Only to operations with same standards, Comply with export / import rules, Transboundary movements of waste need TFS
15. **Warranty** - Must comply with market in which reuse item is sold, Manufacturers warranty followed if valid
16. **Recycling** - Recyclers must hold valid permits for specific WEEE, Hazardous materials to be handled safely and track waste to final recycling / disposal point
17. **Environmental Management** - Process to identify & minimise environmental impact ~ e.g. ISO 14001 / EMAS
18. **Records** - Records of testing maintained in an easily accessible format available for inspection
19. **Health & Safety of Reuse People** - Work environment shall be assessed and made safe and training, tools & PPE to be provided

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6th May 2010