



National WEEE Protocols

1.0 Introduction

This document brings together a summary of the revised Small Mixed WEEE (SMW) protocol and the Large Domestic Appliance (LDA) protocol.

The SMW protocol has been revised following a sampling programme undertaken during the summer of 2010.

2.0 Small Mixed WEEE Protocol

The original work on establishing a protocol for Small Mixed WEEE collected from Designated Collection Facilities has been updated. The original work established a set of percentages, which AATFs would apply to collections of SMW. In early 2010 industry flagged that they believed the collection systems had improved significantly and that the existing percentages in the SMW protocol no longer accurately reflected the segregated WEEE being collected as SMW at DCF sites.

Industry, led by a number of WEEE producer compliance schemes and in partnership with 5 AATF operators agreed to undertake a further sampling exercise to establish what the current category mix was in SMW collections.

Agreement was reached between industry and the regulators that this subsequent sampling would only focus on the category mix. The original material composition work was deemed to be still valid and so would not be reviewed as part of this second piece of work.

The sampling of SMW took place over the summer of 2010 and sampled 305.426 tonnes of SMW. Five AATF operators were involved in the sampling and provided a good geographical spread of collections from across the UK.

3.0 Sampling programme

The sampling consisted of containers of small mixed WEEE from DCF sites being hand sorted, with the WEEE being split out into separate containers based on the standard 10 + 3 categories. In addition any unidentifiable WEEE (broken parts, cables etc) were collected as miscellaneous WEEE. Anything that was not WEEE was collected as non-WEEE. Once separated out in the various categories and fractions, were then weighed. The results from each hand sampling of loads from DCFs feeding into the 5 AATF operator sites were then brought together to provide a single data set on the tonnages by category identified as part of the overall 305 tonnes sampled. The tonnages were then converted to percentages to give the revised SMW protocol.

4.0 Results

The following table summarises the revised percentages, which have been derived from the sampling of 305 tonnes of SMW over the summer of 2010

Category		Percentage (%)
1		12.60
2		22.37
3		21.78
4		22.30
5		-
6		12.24
7		1.47
8		0.00
9		0.02
10		-
11 (Display)		0.95
12 (Cooling)		0.19
13		0.00
<i>Non WEEE</i>	4.36	
<i>Lighting</i>	1.66	
<i>Batteries</i>	0.06	
Total non obligated WEEE		6.08
		(100%)

4.1 Non WEEE

The sampling identified that 4.36% of the items collected in the SMW containers was contamination i.e. not WEEE.

4.2 Display and cooling equipment

The SMW containers were found to contain some display equipment (0.95%) and cooling equipment (0.19%). On the basis that this is what the sampling has found, the decision has been taken to include these percentages in the revised SMW protocol and to not make any adjustments.

The fact that the revised protocol is recognising that some hazardous waste in the form of display equipment and cooling equipment will arise in SMW WEEE containers, based on the results of the sampling, does not mean that every load of SMW must be consigned as hazardous waste. Our position on this matter remains as before, where any container of waste is being passed to someone else and it contains hazardous waste, then the requirement of the hazardous waste regulations must be complied with.

DCF operators and their contracted Producer Compliance Schemes should be taking steps to ensure that hazardous waste is not collected in the SMW containers.

4.3 Lighting

A small amount of lighting was found in the SMW. This has been accounted for and has been rolled up into the total non obligated WEEE percentage.

4.4 Batteries

The sampling found a total 170.80 kgs of loose batteries, this equates to 0.056% of the SMW sampled. This figure (rounded to 2 decimal places) is incorporated into the non obligated WEEE percentage - 6.08%. Therefore operators who are using the SMW protocol do not have to make a separate deduction from the tonnage of SMW received to account for batteries.

4.5 Miscellaneous WEEE

The sampling found a total of 11.946 tonnes (3.91%) of miscellaneous WEEE i.e WEEE that could not be attributed to a specific category.

On the basis that items were attributable to a EEE product, this tonnage has been smoothed across all the WEEE categories that now make up the SMW protocol, with the allocation being made on a proportionate basis.

4.6 Total non obligated WEEE and contamination

The final figure for non obligated WEEE is 6.08% (made up of contamination, lighting and batteries). Therefore for every 100tonnes of SMW received by an approved operator who chooses to apply the SMW protocol, a total of 93.92 tonnes of evidence can be issued.

5.0 SMW Material composition

The material composition of SMW has not been sampled again as part of the sampling undertaken in 2010. Agreement has been reached that the existing work undertaken on material composition is still valid.

The existing percentages for the material composition are provided below.

Category	% Material Composition			
	Metals	Plastic	Other	PCB
1	80.50	12.80	6.20	0.50
2	38.20	59.00	2.70	0.20
3	59.90	33.30	2.20	4.60
4	53.50	26.50	15.40	4.60
5	-	-	-	-
6	55.30	41.90	2.90	0.00
7	28.30	63.10	7.70	0.90
8	-	-	-	-
9	60.0	20.00	20.00	0.00
10	-	-	-	-

Display	15.10	16.70	58.60	9.70
Cooling	69.50	14.60	15.90	0.00

The sampling for the revised SMW protocol has identified that small amounts of display and cooling equipment was found in the SMW collections. Percentages for these two categories have been added to the revised protocol. As no material composition was undertaken as part of this second sampling, the original material composition values for CRTs and Cooling equipment have been used to complete the table above.

6.0 Large Domestic Appliance protocol

The large domestic appliance (LDA) protocol has not been reviewed as part of the review work looking at the SMW protocol.

The existing LDA protocol remains valid, and the two tables below set out the protocol information.

Percentage of LDA in collections from DCFs

Category	Percentage
Category 1 LDA	87%
Non-WEEE	13%
Totals	100%

Percentage Material composition of LDA derived WEEE

Material	% Composition
Metal	65.0%
Plastic	8.0%
Other	27.0%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>

14. Further information and contact details for the agencies

Links to The Regulations

The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2006 SI3289

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/SI/si2006/20063289.htm>

The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (Amendment) Regulations, 2007 SI3454,

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2007/uksi_20073454_en_1

The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (Amendment) Regulations, 2009 SI2957,

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/uksi_20092957_en_1

The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (Amendment)(No.2) Regulations, 2009 SI3216

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/uksi_20093216_en_1

The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (Amendment) Regulations, 2010 SI1155

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/uksi_20101155_en_1

Guidance notes, application forms and contact details for the agencies

Government Guidance Notes (Department for Business, Innovation and Skills) on the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations –

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/files/file54145.pdf>

AATF and AE application forms and guidance can be obtained from:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/waste/99161.aspx>

For England and Wales, contact the Environment Agency

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/weee>

Email: weee@environment-agency.gov.uk

Telephone: 08708 506 506

For Scotland, contact the Scottish Environment Protection Agency:

http://www.sepa.org.uk/waste/waste_regulation/producer_responsibility.aspx

Email: producer.responsibility@sepa.org.uk

Telephone: 01786 457700

For Northern Ireland, contact the Northern Ireland Environment Agency:

http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/waste-home/regulation/regulations_weee.htm

Email: weee@doeni.gov.uk

Telephone: 028 9056 9837