

The Distributor Take-back Scheme (DTS)

If you are a retailer of electrical goods then it is likely that you will have recently been asked by Valpak to make a contribution to Phase III of the DTS. Before you do, I recommend you spend a few minutes reading this article.

Peter Hunt – Managing Director, WasteCare Group



Introduction

You may recall back in 2007 you were asked to contribute to the DTS. Over 5,000 businesses duly paid up, paying in total nearly £10 million. Some multiple retailers contributed over £300,000 each for the pleasure.

Following the launch back in 2007 the DTS is now beginning Phase III of its development. Enshrined in the WEEE Regulations 2006, the DTS provides electrical retailers a simple way of fulfilling their responsibilities, concerning the safe recycling of unwanted WEEE.

The idea was for retailers to pay a fee based on the value of electrical sales and for this money to be redistributed to local authorities to help improve civic amenity recycling centres. In the event, councils were limited to £3,000 per site and it is since understood, less than a third of the money raised found its way to the recycling centres.

When Phase II was launched in 2009, the bill to retailers admittedly dropped to less than £4 million, however barely any of this money appears to have been allocated to local authorities, for the purpose intended. Since the launch of the DTS retailers have stumped up over £14 million and got little or nothing to show for it. Phase III is looking to raise yet another £3m or so.



Small electrical retailers (< £1.5m turnover)

The rules have changed again but as before retailers are banded by size. If you sell less than £1.5m a year of electrical goods then you are simply expected to pay a fixed fee again. This we believe will be £175.

Whether you were previously registered or not, you should **not** register again, you do **not** need to pay the fee. Instead you simply join WeeeCollect.

Large electrical retailers (>£1.5 turnover)

If you are considered a Band A retailer, selling more than £1.5m in electrical goods a year, you will have to pass a test before you are required to contribute more. To help you decide if you qualify, you will need to answer “yes” to the following three questions?

1. Do over 25% of your outlets have 400 sq metres dedicated to domestic electrical sales?
2. Do you have over 50 retail outlets in the UK?
3. Do you have outlets in at least 7 of the following economic regions; Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales, North East England, North West England, East Midlands, West Midlands, East Anglia, South East England, South West England?

If you do qualify you may need to pay a registration fee of up to **£21,996.44**, unless of course you avoid the need to register.

As a large producer you can simply avoid the need to join the DTS, whilst at the same time, earn thousands from the value recovered from unwanted electrical equipment. Again, to do so, you simply need to join WeeeCollect.

What you can do

The Government are expecting around 150 major EEE retailers to qualify in part or in whole. If you think you might be one of these and wish to reduce or eliminate the cost of the DTS in Phase III then answer yes to one or more of the following questions;

1. **Are you prepared to offer any in-store take-back options for your customers?**
2. **Do you already or do you wish to offer door-step collections for bulky items of WEEE at no cost to you?**
3. **Are you happy to instruct your customers where they can get their WEEE recycled?**
4. **Are you willing to promote WEEE donations to charity?**
5. **Would you consider trade-in initiatives and take-back days?**
6. **Will you help promote reuse?**

If the answer to any of these suggestions is yes, or in fact, if you have any other ways to promote safe WEEE recycling then contact us now to make sure you don't have to write out any large cheques!

retra members only

In 2010, with the launch of Phase II of the DTS many retailers opted out and joined the WeeeCollect Service.

If you are a **retra** member, you automatically qualify for the WeeeCollect service, entirely FREE for the next 5 years. Also, WeeeCollect will rebate cash back for all scrap WEEE.

If you are not a member then there is a one off fee of £90 to register with WeeeCollect, or contact **retra** now for full membership benefits at www.retra.co.uk



What is WeeeCollect?

In essence **WeeeCollect** is a free recycling service for consumer electrical equipment and electronics, operated exclusively by WasteCare on behalf of its members. Funded mainly by the recovered value of the waste collected, the service is designed to support all retailers, regardless of size. A number of retailers have already opted to offer customers free in store take-back and **WeeeCollect** simply complements their existing service. In addition;

WeeeCollect provides

- **Free access to over 1,000 drop off points for consumers**
- **Money back for reusable appliances**
- **Free store collections for all types of WEEE**
- **Door-step collections for consumers with bulky items**

Summary

The DTS is voluntary. You can fulfil your duty of care and satisfy your responsibilities enshrined in the WEEE regulations without sending a cheque to Valpak. To find out more, please visit www.weecollect.co.uk

WasteCare Group

Dedicated to low cost compliance, the company operate over 200 collection vehicles based at 12 regional service centres carrying out over 10,000 collections per month. WasteCare is accredited to ISO 14000, 9001, PAS 141 and ADISA quality standards.

Web: www.WasteCare.co.uk

Tel: 0800 091 0000

