

"Polluter pays" principle

Prospective system for management of waste electrical and electronic equipment, batteries and accumulators

In order to fulfill obligations undertaken under Agreement on association with the EU, bills No. 2350 and No. 2352 were introduced to Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. These bills are aimed to establish a system for separate collection of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), as well as waste batteries and accumulators.

What are these bills intended for?

The prospective system should make it possible to reuse materials and reduce environmental and human health damage. If adopted, new developments should take effect in 2021.

What changes are envisaged in the bills?

- Establishment of Register of producers of products subject to systems of extended producer's responsibility and a Register of collective and individual extended producer's responsibility organizations;
- Establishment of extended producer's responsibility organizations that are going to fulfill responsibilities of producers regarding waste management, in exchange for information and funding from producers;
- Introduction of possibility for consumers, who buy a piece of electrical and electronic equipment, to hand in a similar used piece to the distributor; in case of waste batteries and accumulators it shall not depend on purchase of new pieces;
- Introduction of collection rates for producers for removal of WEEE, batteries and accumulators;
- Introduction of special marking for electrical and electronic equipment, batteries and accumulators.



Who will be affected by the proposed changes?

Importers and producers will be required to:

- be registered in the Register of producers of products subject to systems of extended producer's responsibility;
- ensure collection of WEEE, waste batteries and accumulators;
- meet the collection rates for waste collection, preparation for re-use, recycling etc.;
- provide consumers with information and organize campaigns to encourage separate waste collection;
- establish or join an extended producer's responsibility organization (it is not yet known whether this is a right or an obligation).

Distributors

Distributors will be required to take in WEEE, batteries and accumulators from consumers.

Consumers

Consumers will have more rights, for example, to receive more information. Consumers will also be obliged to collect waste separately.

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