

UNIFE fact sheet: WEEE Legislation

This UNIFE fact sheet sets out to what extent products from its member companies come within the scope of the European Directive “on waste electrical and electronic equipment” (2012/19/EC, “WEEE”). The objective of this Directive is to lay down measures to protect the environment and human health by preventing or reducing the adverse impacts of the generation and management of waste from electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) and by reducing overall impacts of resource use and improving the efficiency of such use.

The UNIFE understanding is that EEE:

- In items that are specifically designed for rolling stock or rail infrastructure or to be a part of a large-scale fixed installation or a large-scale stationary industrial tool, does not fall into the scope of the WEEE directive.
- That is used for the repair, the reuse, the updating of functionalities or the upgrading of capacities of rolling stock or rail infrastructure or a part of a large-scale fixed installation or a large-scale stationary industrial tool, especially systems put on the market before July 2011 do not fall into the scope of the WEEE directive.
- For test and service that is specially designed and necessary for rail systems and is an integral part of rolling stock or rail infrastructure or a large-scale stationary industrial tool or a large-scale fixed installation does not fall into the scope of the WEEE directive.
- For test and service that is specially designed and necessary for rail systems but is not integrated to rolling stock or rail infrastructure is within the scope of the WEEE directive

UNIFE member companies request the suppliers of EEE to maintain safety and quality standards of supplied EEE.

Information about the Directive

The European Commission has re-written the WEEE Directive during 2012 and released a revised Directive (2012/19/EC) that shall replace the existing Directive (2002/96/EC) as of 14th February 2014. The major changes are:

- Increased scope within 6 new categories after a transitional period until August 2018
- Successive increase of recycling targets until August 2015, in the meantime and from August 2018

WEEE (2012/19/EC) and its legal predecessor (2002/96/EC) covers electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) specified for voltages below 1000 Volt AC and below 1500 Volt DC and falling into one of the categories listed on the left hand side if not an explicit exclusion or exemption exists.

Common elements of implementations are that producers shall mark and register their equipment in the country where it is put on the market. They shall meet recycling targets and – in case of consumer (B2C) products - make financial provisions or – in case of B2B products (not intended for private users) - contractual arrangements (take-back) with regard to end-of-life treatment.

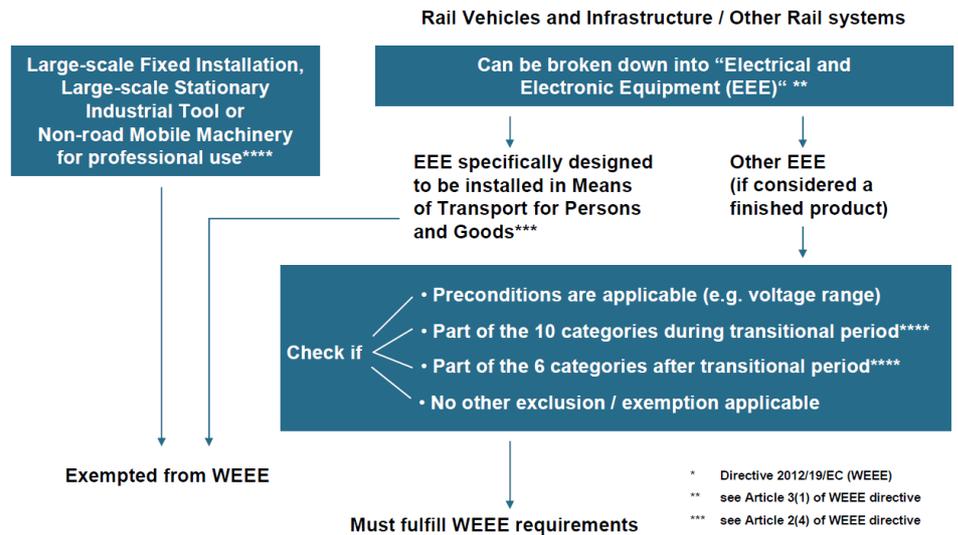
Categories of EEE during the transitional period until August 2018:

1. Large household appliances
2. Small household appliances
3. IT and telecommunications equipment
4. Consumer equipment and photovoltaic panels
5. Lighting equipment
6. Electrical and electronic tools (with the exception of large-scale stationary industrial tools)
7. Toys, leisure and sports equipment
8. Medical devices (with the exception of all implanted and infected products)
9. Monitoring and control instruments
10. Automatic dispensers

Categories of EEE after the transitional period and after August 2018:

1. Temperature exchange equipment
2. Screens, monitors, and equipment containing screens having a surface greater than 100 cm²
3. Lamps
4. Large equipment (any external dimension more than 50 cm)
5. Small equipment (no external dimension more than 50 cm)
6. Small IT and telecommunication equipment (no external dimension more than 50 cm)

Relevance of WEEE* for Rail Systems



- * Directive 2012/19/EC (WEEE)
 ** see Article 3(1) of WEEE directive
 *** see Article 2(4) of WEEE directive
 **** see Annex I and III of WEEE directive

Relevance of WEEE for Rail Systems after transitional period

The majority of equipment for the Rail Industry is not part of the scope of WEEE as it falls into one (or more) of the following exclusions as EEE specifically designed or for:

- Means of Transport for Persons and Goods,
- Large Scale Fixed Installations and
- Large Scale Stationary Industrial Tools, and
- Non-road mobile machinery for professional use.

This means that the relevance of WEEE for rolling stock or rail infrastructure is limited to a few products that belong to one of the 6 WEEE categories, is not excluded (see list above) and which can be operating independently from rolling stock or the infrastructure. Examples of equipment used in rail applications that is considered in the scope of WEEE are typically portable items not specifically designed for rail applications, like:

- Laptop computers, Computer screens, Keyboards and Mobile phones
- Handheld equipment such as installation, test & maintenance tools
- Some of kitchen equipment in bistro wagons

Exemptions

Even when equipment falls within the scope of the WEEE Directive, there are a number of exemptions that must be carefully checked. Only when a component belongs to one of the product categories that fall under WEEE and none of the existing exemptions applies must the component completely fulfil all WEEE requirements.

Industry Commitment

UNIFE member companies have instructed their suppliers of WEEE covered equipment to mark their equipment as per EN 50419 and to make the necessary provisions for take back in the country where the product will be operated and where the equipment likely will be disposed off in maintenance or end-of-life activities.

It is the responsibility of the owner of the product to make sure that the different parts of the product are disposed off in an environmentally friendly manner, i.e. handed over to licensed firms according to relevant legal obligations, or in the case of equipment falling under WEEE, to deliver such equipment to the appropriate network installed in the respective country in line with the regulations of the WEEE directive.

Definitions

- “Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment” or “WEEE” means electrical or electronic equipment (EEE) which is waste within the meaning of Article 3(1) of Directive 2008/98/EC, including all components, sub-assemblies and consumables which are part of the product at the time of discarding.
- “Electrical and Electronic Equipment” or “EEE” means equipment which is dependent on electric currents or electromagnetic fields in order to work properly and equipment for the generation, transfer and measurement of such currents and fields and designed for use with a voltage rating not exceeding 1000 volts for alternating current and 1500 volts for direct current.
- “Large equipment (any external dimension more than 50 cm)” means Household appliances; IT and telecommunication equipment; consumer equipment; luminaires; equipment reproducing sound or images, musical equipment; electrical and electronic tools; toys, leisure and sports equipment; medical devices; monitoring and control instruments; automatic dispensers; equipment for the generation of electric currents.
- “Small equipment (no external dimension more than 50 cm)” Household appliances; consumer equipment; luminaires; equipment reproducing sound or images, musical equipment; electrical and electronic tools; toys, leisure and sports equipment; medical devices; monitoring and control instruments; automatic dispensers; equipment for the generation of electric currents.
- “Large-scale Stationary Industrial Tools” means a large size assembly of machines, equipment, and/or components, functioning together for a specific application, permanently installed and de-installed by professionals at a given place, and used and maintained by professionals in an industrial manufacturing facility or research and development facility.
- “Large-scale Fixed Installation” means a large size combination of several types of apparatus and, where applicable, other devices, which are assembled, installed by professionals and intended to be used permanently in a pre-defined and dedicated location, and to be de-installed by professionals.
- “Non-road mobile machinery” means machinery, with onboard power source, the operation of which requires either mobility or continuous or semi-continuous movement between a succession of fixed working locations while working.