

# Scope of equipment covered by the UK Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations

## How to accurately report EEE placed on the market

2 December 2014

Electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) covered by the [Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013 as amended](#) is known as 'in scope'.

Producers of EEE must report to the environmental regulators the weight of EEE they place on the market during a compliance year by category.

There are three steps to decide if your EEE is in scope. Check if the product:

- falls under the definition of EEE
- is in one of the categories
- is exempt or excluded

### Definition of EEE

You can find the definition of EEE in [Part 1 Regulation 2](#).

Electrical and electronic products are not just those connected to a mains supply, but also include wind-up, battery-powered and solar-powered products.

Only products that are dependent on electric currents or electromagnetic fields for their basic function are in scope. For example, a domestic gas cooker using gas to power its main function as a cooker, but which uses electricity to power an electric clock and the ignition, is not in scope as it will still function as a cooker without electricity. Other examples that are not in scope include talking dolls and musical greetings cards.

### Categories of EEE

Until 1 January 2019 when the scope widens, producers are required to report products they place on the market in one of 14 categories:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Large household appliances   | 8. Medical devices (except implanted and infected products) |
| 2. Small household appliances   | 9. Monitoring and control equipment                         |
| 3. IT and telecommunications equipment  | 10. Automatic dispensers                                    |
| 4. Consumer equipment   | 11. Display equipment                                       |
| 5. Lighting equipment   | 12. Appliances containing refrigerants                      |
| 6. Electrical and electronic tools (except large scale stationary industrial tools) | 13. Gas discharge lamps and LED light sources               |
| 7. Toys, leisure and sports equipment   | 14. Photovoltaic panels                                     |

### Exemptions

You can find items of EEE that are exempt in [Part 2, Regulation 7](#).

Note: military equipment products not specifically intended for military purposes but which could be used for either military or civil purposes, such as laptops or keyboards, are in scope.

An example of a piece of equipment specifically designed and installed by the manufacturer as part of another type of equipment (not covered by the Directive) is a built-in satellite navigation system installed into cars, boats or aeroplanes.

## Exclusions

You can find items of EEE that are excluded from scope in [Part 2, Regulation 8](#). Further information on EEE scope and the definitions of exclusions can be found in the European Union WEEE [frequently asked questions](#) document.

## Fixed installations

Large scale fixed installations are excluded from scope. Other fixed installations are out of scope until 1 January 2019.

A fixed installation is:

- a combination of several pieces of equipment, systems, products and/or components (or parts) assembled and/or erected by a professional assembler or installer
- at a given place to operate together in an expected environment and to perform a specific task
- not intended to be placed on the market as a single functional or commercial unit

Elements of a system that are not distinct EEE products in their own right or that do not have a direct function away from the installation are excluded from scope.

## Batteries in EEE

If you place products containing batteries on the UK market you need to report the weight of the EEE minus the weight of batteries. The weight of batteries needs to be reported under the [waste battery regulations](#).

## Components, accessories and consumables

Components and sub assemblies (eg wiring, circuit boards, electric motors) supplied to a business for incorporation into or assembly with a finished product (eg into a washing machine, ICT equipment) are not in scope. It's the finished product that's in scope. Spare parts that are supplied for the repair of a finished product are also not in scope.

Whether an item sold as part of a product is in scope will depend on its interdependence, the product description and expected inclusion in waste EEE. This generally means if it's specifically designed for the product. For example, non-electrical parts of an electronic game such as a board and dice, or a protective case supplied with a power tool are in scope. Packaging, instructions and consumables such as drill bits are not in scope.

Accessories such as headphones, computer keyboards, aerial cables which have a function when associated with another product such as a computer, TV or MP3 player are in scope.

## Household (B2C) and non-household (B2B) products in scope

All the categories cover both household (B2C) and non-household (B2B) products. Categories 1 and 2 include 'household' in the title, but this does not mean that similar products used or designed for non household use are excluded. All products which fall into the categories, regardless of whether they are used in a household or in a non-household environment are covered by the Regulations.

For example, industrial fridges in a retail outlet need to be reported in category 12 appliances containing refrigerants.

Non-household luminaires irrespective of light source are in scope and reported in category 5 - exclude the weight of any user replaceable lamps or LED modules. Where they are sold with a user replaceable light source (eg traditional gas discharge lamp, LED lamp or user replaceable LED module) the lamp or LED module is in scope and you need to report its weight separately in category 13.

Household luminaires irrespective of light source are not in scope. But where they are sold with a user replaceable light source (eg a traditional or LED lamp or user replaceable LED module) the lamp or LED module is in scope and needs to be reported with its weight in category 13.

## **Putting lamps and LED modules onto the market**

If you put LED lamps or LED modules on to the market as individual products which can be used by an end-user for replacement purposes (eg for maintenance or upgrading), you need to report them under category 13 (gas discharge lamps and LED light sources). These were previously reported under category 5 (lighting equipment). There is no change to the classification of products in other categories, such as bike lights and torches that contain an LED light source; these do not change category.

## Environment Agency EEE scope decisions

This table gives examples of how the Environment Agency interpreted the Regulations for products they've been asked about. These examples provide clarity and help illustrate the principles of determining what's covered by the regulations and what's not. This advice is not legally binding and we reserve the right to change it if circumstances and our understanding changes.

| Product  | In or out?       | Category   | Comments  |
|--|------------------|--|---|
| <b>Air conditioning</b>  | In (see comment) | Category 1 (declare as category 12 if it contains substances used for refrigeration) | Portable air conditioning units are in scope. Air conditioning installed as part of equipment that is not EEE is exempt.  |
| <b>Air curtains</b>  | In               | Category 1   |   |
| <b>Air filtering and extracting systems</b>                              | In               | Category 6   | Portable units are in scope. Units installed as part of equipment that is not EEE is exempt.  |
| <b>Air fresheners, perfume sprayers (the 'plug-in' or battery types)</b> | In               | Category 2   |   |
| <b>Aerials, Antennas and Digital TV dishes</b>                           | In               | Category 4   |   |
| <b>Battery chargers</b>  | In               | See comment  | The charger needs to be in the same category as the item that it charges (for example, a mobile-phone battery charger is in category 3, while a camera battery charger is in category 4). General battery chargers are in category 2. |
| <b>Blood glucose meters / testers</b>                                    | In               | Category 8   |   |
| <b>Cable reel</b>  | Out              |  | Reels of cable are out of scope because they cannot function in their own right.  |

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| <b>Car-park and traffic management electric barriers</b>   | In  | Category 9  |   |
| <b>Car diagnostic equipment</b>  | In  | Category 3  | Equipment that is plugged into the car's central processing unit to diagnose and record faults depends on electricity to work, and so is classed as equipment that is used to process information electronically.   |
| <b>Chip and PIN credit or debit cards</b>  | Out |             | The card itself is out of scope. The chip and pin is not essential for the bank card to perform its primary function. A bank card can still be used to withdraw money, make payments, without the chip and pin function. The card reader is in scope under category 3.  |
| <b>Cooker hood</b>   | In  | Category 1  | If it has a built in LED lamp it is still category 1 because the basic function is as an extractor fan not as a light source.   |
| <b>Decorative lights, festive lights, lava lamps, fibre-optic lights, night lights and so on</b> | Out |             | All household light fittings are exempt from the regulations. They are not exempt from the RoHS regulations.  |
| <b>Display equipment</b>   | In  | Category 11 | All display equipment (including CRT TVs, plasma screens, LCDs and so on) need to be reported in category 11 – display equipment. TVs should not be included in category 4 and computer screens should not be included in category 3. Display screens that are a vital part of another product (for example, laptop screens, mobile-phone screens and mp3 player screens) should be declared in the category for the relevant equipment – laptops (category 3), mobile phones (category 3), mp3 players (category 4) and so on. |
| <b>Disposable cameras</b>  | In  | Category 4  | Disposable cameras that are recycled need to be declared as non-household EEE. Such cameras are normally returned to a film processor, who will either recycle the camera or discard it.  |
| <b>Duty Free</b>   | In  |             | Whilst the goods may leave the UK once they are sold - because the end user is travelling - the goods were still supplied to be put on the UK market (eg to   |

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|   |     |             | British Airways or another duty free operator).   |
| <b>E-cigarettes</b>   | In  | Category 7  |   |
| <b>Extension cords, multi-terminals, adaptors and leads</b> | In  | Category 2  | If these products are not sold in relation to a specific product, they need to be declared as category 2.   |
| <b>Electric fences</b>                                      | In  | Category 6  |   |
| <b>Electric showers</b>                                     | In  | Category 2  | Pumps supplied as part of a shower package are in scope.  |
| <b>Fire-alarm systems</b>                                   | In  | Category 9  | Finished products that rely on electricity and form part of a fire-alarm system are included as EEE. This could include smoke detectors, alarm bells, lighting, sprinklers, and so on.  |
| <b>Fish tanks</b>   | In  | Category 7  | A fish tank that has a built-in light, heater, or pump and is sold as a single commercial unit is classed as EEE. The whole weight of the item needs to be included.  |
| <b>Furniture with electrical components</b>                 | Out |             | Items of home furniture with electrical components (for example, an electric bed, electric chair and so on) are not covered by the regulations. If the product had a specific medical function, eg an electronic bed for use in hospitals and care homes it would be in scope category 8.   |
| <b>Fridge</b>   | In  | Category 12 | If it has an LED internal lamp it is still category 12 because its basic function is as an appliance containing refrigerant not as a source of light.   |
| <b>Games consoles</b>                                       | In  | Category 7  | Included in Category 7 even if they have additional functions such as a DVD player.   |
| <b>Hearing aids</b>   | In  | Category 8  |   |
| <b>In-car entertainment</b>                                 | In  | Category 4  | Portable DVD players, radios and stereos that rely on a 12-volt power supply and are not permanently installed in the vehicle are covered by the regulations. A car radio that is purchased separately to be permanently installed in a vehicle and wired into the car's electrical system, and likely to remain with the car until it is sold or scrapped is out of scope. |

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| <b>Illuminated fire-exit sign</b>                              | In  | Category 5      |  |
| <b>LED lamps and modules</b>                                   | In  | Category 13     | A light source product placed on the market as an individual product which uses light emitting diodes or OLED material as the light source and will be used as a replacement (eg for maintenance or upgrade). Includes household and non-household products. |
| <b>LED indicator light</b>                                     |     |                 | Any product containing one or more LED indicator light(s) should be reported in its own category.  |
| <b>LED (individual) and LED sub-assemblies</b>                 | Out |                 | If supplied to an original equipment manufacturer (OEM) for incorporation into a finished product they are components so out of scope.   |
| <b>Light Switches</b>  | Out |                 | Unless they have additional functionality and include active electronics such as a PCB or a circuit breaker, then they are in scope and are in category 2.   |
| <b>Loadbanks (testing systems for electric power supplies)</b> | In  | Category 9      |  |
| <b>Loft ladders with electronic controls</b>                   | In  | Category 2      |  |
| <b>Massage chairs and massage appliances</b>                   | In  | Category 1 or 2 | Large massage chairs need to be included as category 1. Massage pads that fit onto chairs and other massage equipment is category 2.   |
| <b>Memory cards, USB sticks, SIM cards</b>                     | In  | Category 3      |  |
| <b>Mobility scooters</b>                                       | Out |                 | They are vehicles for the transport of people.   |
| <b>Power-supply units</b>                                      | In  | See comment     | These act as transformers to alter the voltage or current, and so are finished products in their own right. They need to be included in the same category as the products they come with (for example, mobile phone, laptop and so on).                      |
| <b>Pumps, filters, fountains and so on for garden ponds</b>    | In  | Category 6      |  |

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| <b>RFID (radio-frequency identification devices) radio tracking devices, including pet ID chips, anti-theft devices and electronic tags for criminals</b> | In  | Category 3  | The only exceptions are where a RFID is a security feature which forms part of the packaging of a product, and contactless payment bank cards using RFID technology, as these bank cards can still be used to withdraw money, make payments, without the contactless payment functionality. |
| <b>Remote controllers</b>   | In  | See comment | Generally included in category of the product they were supplied with.  |
| <b>Roller screen with electronic winder functions</b>   | In  | Category 2  |   |
| <b>Satellite navigation (sat nav) systems</b>   | In  | Category 3  | Portable 'sat nav' systems are covered. 'Sat nav' systems that are permanently fixed and wired into a vehicle or yacht are considered as part of the vehicle and, as a consequence, are not covered by the regulations.   |
| <b>Security systems including CCTV</b>  | In  | Category 4  | Security systems which include motion sensors, video cameras or still cameras and display equipment and so on are classed as category 4 – equipment for recording or reproducing sound or images.   |
| <b>Solar panels</b>   | In  | Category 14 |   |
| <b>Solar-powered items such as calculators, watches, garden pumps, phone chargers and so on</b>   | In  | See comment | The category will depend on the product.  |
| <b>Spa baths, hydrotherapy baths, computerised massage baths</b>  | In  | Category 1  | Although the main function of these items is a bath, a large part of the function and feature of the product is based on the added value provided by the electrical functions.  |
| <b>Spare parts</b>  | Out |             | Spare parts supplied to repair EEE are not covered by the regulations, as they are classed as components or finished products.<br><br>Note: spare parts may have to meet RoHS regulations. Producers should make  |

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|  |             |   | sure their products keep to the requirements.  |
| <b>Stairlifts</b>  | Out         | Does not apply  | Stairlifts and other lifts (for example, escalators) are not in any of the EEE categories and so are outside the regulations.  |
| <b>Street lights</b>   | In          | Category 5  | The electrical parts are EEE, the bulb, wiring, control box, but not the concrete or metal lamp post.  |
| <b>Sunbeds</b>   | In          | See comment.  | Sunbeds are classed as category 2 and fluorescent bulbs need to be included in category 5.   |
| <b>Taps with built-in lights</b>                               | Out         | Does not apply  | The main function of the item is a tap, and does not need electricity.   |
| <b>Torches and bike lights</b>                                 | In          | Category 2  | Includes both filament bulb and LED torches.   |
| <b>Traffic lights</b>  | In          | Category 9  |  |
| <b>Under-floor heating systems (if powered by electricity)</b> | In          | Category 1  |  |
| <b>Utility meters</b>  | In          | See comment   | Digital utility meters are in scope – category 9. Analogue utility meters are out of scope   |
| <b>Water coolers – bottle or mains supply</b>                  | In          | Category 1<br>(or category 12 if it contains substances used for refrigeration) |  |
| <b>Wind turbines</b>   | See comment | Category 6  | Large wind turbines qualify as large-scale fixed installations so are exempt from the regulations. Small-scale wind turbines that could be used by a household, smallholding or at the roadside need to be included in category 6. |
| <b>Wind-up torches and radios</b>                              | In          | See comment.  | These still rely on electricity to work whether the electricity is generated by the wind-up system or not. The category will depend on the product.  |

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|-----------------------|-----|-------------|---|
| <b>Wire reel</b>      | Out |             | Reels of wire are out of scope because they cannot function in their own right.   |
| <b>X-ray machines</b> | In  | See comment | Category will depend on its intended use. For instance, X-ray machines used for security in airports are category 9. X-ray machines used in hospitals are category 8. |