

National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme: Recycling Targets

The National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme requires importers and manufacturers of televisions, computers and computer products to participate in industry-run collection and recycling efforts.

This fact sheet outlines how annual recycling targets for the Scheme are set, and how these targets are allocated to industry-run 'co-regulatory arrangements'.

The Scheme's primary goal is to lift recycling rates of end-of-life televisions, computers and computer products (such as keyboards, mice and hard drives) to 80 per cent by 2021-22. To achieve that goal the *Product Stewardship (Computers and Televisions) Regulations 2011* specify annual recycling targets for the Scheme and detail how these targets are calculated.

Annual Scheme targets are set as a percentage of the total 'waste arising' in a given year. 'Waste arising' is an estimate of the total television, computer and computer product waste generated in the year.

Each co-regulatory arrangement is responsible for a proportion of the Scheme target based on the net imports (less eligible exports) and local manufacture share of its members.

Importers and manufacturers liable under the Scheme (liable parties) do not have individual targets. Liable parties' net imports (less eligible exports) and local manufacture contribute to the overall target for the co-regulatory arrangement they join.

The following steps summarise the process for calculating Scheme and co-regulatory arrangement targets. The Regulations set out these calculations in detail.

Step 1: Scheme Target (department to calculate)

The first step is for the department to calculate overall Scheme targets for each product class (televisions and computers) using the formula contained in the

Regulations. This involves calculating the 'waste arising' in the financial year and multiplying this by the recycling percentage target for that year.

Waste arising is calculated taking into account an average of import and manufacturing data for the preceding three years with an adjustment for exports and growth.

The first annual recycling target is 30 per cent in 2012-13. This figure increases each year to reach 80 per cent in 2021-22. The recycling percentage targets for each year are specified in Schedule 2 of the Regulations.

The department will publish Scheme targets, expressed in tonnes, around October each year.

Step 2: Total 'converted weight' of net imports/manufacture for all liable parties (department to calculate)

The department calculates the total 'converted weight' of net imports/manufacture by all liable parties in the preceding financial year. The department will also publish this figure in around October each year. For more details refer to the separate conversion factor fact sheet.

Step 3: Target for co-regulatory arrangement (co-regulatory arrangement to calculate)

The final step is for a co-regulatory arrangement to determine what proportion of the Scheme target it is responsible for. It does this by dividing the total converted weight of net imports/manufacture by its members by the total for all liable parties.

WORKED EXAMPLE

Please Note: the figures used in the following example are for illustrative purposes only.

Step 1:

The department calculates that waste arising for televisions in 2012–13 is (for example) 60,000 tonnes. Therefore, the 2012–13 Scheme target for televisions will be **18,000 tonnes** calculated as follows:

- 60,000 tonnes (waste arising for 2012–13)
x 30 per cent (recycling target for 2012–13)
= **18,000 tonnes**.

Step 2:

For 2012–13 the department calculates that the total 'converted weight' of net imports/manufacture of televisions by all liable parties in Australia in the preceding financial year is (for example) **70,000 tonnes**.

Step 3:

In 2012–13 a co-regulatory arrangement has seven members with combined net imports of televisions in the preceding year of 35,000 tonnes. As this is 50 per cent of the total for all liable parties, the co-regulatory arrangement is responsible for 50 per cent of the Scheme target or **9,000 tonnes** of televisions, calculated as follows:

- 35,000 tonnes (total combined net imports of liable parties in the co-regulatory arrangement)
/ 70,000 tonnes (total net imports/manufacture by all liable parties in Australia) x 100
= 50 per cent
- 18,000 tonnes (the Scheme target for 2012–13)
x 50 per cent (co-regulatory arrangement's share)
= **9,000 tonnes**

HOW MUCH WILL INDIVIDUAL LIABLE PARTIES HAVE TO CONTRIBUTE?

It is likely that arrangement administrators will require members to contribute financially to collection and recycling activities.

Fees structures will differ, but net imports of members are likely to be a consideration given that these affect the recycling target for the co-regulatory arrangement.

As is clear from worked example provided, in the first year of the Scheme the amount an importer or manufacturer contributes to the recycling target of a co-regulatory arrangement is substantially less than the total 'converted weight' of the units that a liable party has imported or manufactured.

In the example, if each member has a net import of 5,000 tonnes it will have contributed approximately 1,285 tonnes (seven members / 9,000 tonnes total) to the recycling target of the arrangement it joins. This is around a quarter of each member's net imports.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme visit the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities website at: environment.gov.au/ewaste.

If you wish to receive updates about the Scheme you can subscribe to the Television and Computer Recycling Scheme e-bulletin at environment.gov.au/settlements/waste/ewaste/subscribe.html.

Alternatively; you can e-mail the department at: ewaste@environment.gov.au.

