



Australian Government

Department of Sustainability, Environment,
Water, Population and Communities

National Television and Computer Product Stewardship Scheme



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TELEVISION AND COMPUTER SCHEME E-BULLETIN

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Useful links

National Waste Policy
environment.gov.au/wastepolicy

E-waste One-stop Portal
environment.gov.au/ewaste

Upcoming events

Waste and Recycle Conference
14 – 16 September 2011
Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, WA

NACRO National Conference
10 & 11 October 2011
Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, WA

Message from the department

Welcome to the third e-bulletin in 2011 for the National Television and Computer Product Stewardship Scheme (the Scheme).



On 8 August 2011 the landmark *Product Stewardship Act 2011* commenced. The department is now gearing up for the public release of the draft television and computer Regulations. The exposure draft of the regulations will undergo a four- week consultation process which will include public meetings in all capital cities. Further details on the public consultation process are on page 4.

A number of other milestones have been achieved in developing the Scheme since the first e-bulletin in May 2010, including public consultation papers on both the legislation and the regulations, and ongoing activities of the Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) and Implementation Working Group (IWG). These are discussed further in this issue.

Recent activities have included a joint meeting of the Scheme and Product Stewardship Legislation SRGs' held in Canberra on 12 July 2011. The meeting included special guest observers from Australia's peak body disability organisations and provided an update on the development of the Scheme.

On 19 July the IWG had the 10th meeting in Sydney. The IWG was established in March 2010 and will continue until the Scheme regulations commence. It is expected that the final IWG meeting will be held in Canberra in October 2011.

E-bulletin re-designed

The department is currently reviewing the format and structure of the e-bulletin. The redesigned e-bulletin will be circulated to subscribers from October 2011 onwards.

If you wish to continue receiving the e-bulletin you are not required to do anything. If you could like to be removed then please unsubscribe [here](#).

Progress in establishing a national scheme

On 8 August 2011 the *Product Stewardship Act 2011* commenced. The Product Stewardship Act paves the way for a range of product stewardship schemes to be implemented, including television and computer recycling. More information on the Product Stewardship Act is on page 3.

Following the release of a television and computer regulations consultation paper and 11 public forums on the in March and April 2011, the department has been working with the Australian Government legislative drafters to prepare an exposure draft of the *Product Stewardship (Television and Computer) Regulation 2011*. Further details on the exposure draft consultation process are on page 4 of this e-bulletin. The proposed regulations will allow for the creation of a National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme (the Scheme). The regulations are expected to come into force in November 2011.

A Scheme Implementation Working Group (IWG) was established in March 2010 to facilitate the operational arrangements for the Scheme. The IWG comprises representatives from the computer and television industry and Australian and state governments.

Since 30 March 2010 the IWG has formally met eleven times; participated in three workshops; and established five sub-groups to focus on key areas of communication; standards; performance indicators; national roll-out; and governance arrangements for the industry-led arrangements. As a result of this ongoing work the IWG has:

- implemented a formal work plan, risk management plan, stakeholder engagement strategy and communications plan;
- received approval from Standards Australia to establish a joint Australia and New Zealand Standard for the collection, storage, handling, transport and treatment of e-waste;

- assisted the Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) and Product Stewardship Australia (PSA) to develop the draft interim industry standard for the collection, transportation and recycling of end-of-life televisions, computers and computer peripherals; and
- provided input into the development of the *Product Stewardship Act 2011* and the proposed television and computer Regulations.

In addition to these achievements, the IWG has actively engaged and consulted with many stakeholders throughout 2010 and 2011. The IWG has played a vital role in disseminating information and educating interested individuals about the Scheme.

The last meeting of the IWG will be held in October 2011 at which time membership will transfer to the Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG)

The Scheme SRG was established in May 2010 to provide input into the development of the Scheme and to facilitate consultation and information dissemination among stakeholders which SRG members represent.

Members of the SRG represent a broad range of stakeholders including state and territory government, local government, community and environmental non-government organisations, consumer groups, retailers, recyclers, waste management industry and television and computer manufacturers and importers.

Since the first meeting on 25 May 2010, the SRG has formally met three times and has provided valuable feedback to the IWG, including on key performance indicators, geographic rollout and recycling standards.

On 17 May 2010 the National Television and Computer Product Stewardship Scheme e-portal and e-bulletin service were launched. The service enables members of the community to access information on the development of the Scheme. Over 500 people currently subscribe to the e-bulletin.

Commencement of the *Product Stewardship Act 2011*

Under the *National Waste Policy: Less waste, more resources* it has been agreed by Australian, state and territory governments that:

The Australian Government, with the support of state and territory governments, will establish a national framework underpinned by legislation to support voluntary, co-regulatory and regulatory product stewardship and extended producer responsibility schemes to provide for the impacts of a product being responsibly managed during and at end of life.

As well as ongoing National Waste Policy activities under the Environment Ministerial Council, the Australian Government has established national legislation through the *Product Stewardship Act 2011*.

The *Product Stewardship Act* commenced on 8 August 2011. This achievement represented 18 months of work by the department and considerable contribution from a broad range of stakeholders.

Invitation for parties interested in establishing product stewardship arrangements under the television and computer scheme

The *Product Stewardship Act 2011* and proposed televisions and computers Regulations will provide for a national collection and recycling scheme for end-of-life televisions, computers and computer peripherals.

Under the Regulations, liable parties will be companies that import or manufacture products covered under the regulations above a certain number of units during the previous financial year. It is proposed that liable parties will meet their obligations by becoming a member of an approved product stewardship arrangement. A product stewardship arrangement is a set of activities or measures designed to achieve the outcomes in the regulations. For a product stewardship arrangement to operate, it must have at least one member who is a liable party.

Product stewardship arrangements will

The objectives of the *Product Stewardship Act* are to reduce the impacts that products have on the environment, throughout their lives; and reduce the impact that substances contained in products have on the environment, and on the health and safety of human beings, throughout the lives of those products.

The *Product Stewardship Act* paves the way for a range of product stewardship schemes to be implemented. Televisions and computers will be the first products to be regulated under a co-regulatory product stewardship framework.

Co-regulatory approaches involve a combination of government regulation and industry action, whereby government sets the outcomes to be met, while industry will have flexibility in determining how those outcomes are achieved.

The *Product Stewardship Act* and subordinate legislation will provide for an industry run and funded national recycling scheme for televisions and computers.

The *Product Stewardship Act 2011* and accompanying explanatory memoranda are available on the Parliament of Australia website. To obtain a copy of the *Product Stewardship Act*, click on the following [link](#).

nominate an entity responsible for administering the arrangement on behalf of liable parties. The administrator of an approved product stewardship arrangement must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the outcomes specified in the regulations are met, including their liable party members share of the Scheme recycling target and providing Australia-wide coverage.

The administrator of the product stewardship arrangement must apply to the Minister or his delegate for approval.

With the new industry-led national scheme expected to commence in late 2011, anyone with an interest in seeking approval to establish a product stewardship arrangement should contact the *Product Stewardship E-Waste Team* at: ewaste@environment.gov.au.

Exposure Draft of Television and Computer Regulations: Consultation Period and National Meetings

An exposure draft of the *Product Stewardship (Television and Computer) Regulations 2011* will be released in early September 2011 for a four week public consultation period. The Regulations will outline the requirements for liable parties and product stewardship arrangements under the Scheme, including recycling targets and Australia-wide coverage.

Consultation on the draft Regulations builds on the extensive consultation undertaken in March and April 2011 on the proposed design of the Regulations.

The objectives of the consultation process are to:

- Gather stakeholder feedback to ensure the draft Regulations are appropriate;
- Ensure the government has a comprehensive understanding of potential impacts and implications associated with the draft Regulations; and
- Improve awareness among stakeholders of the Scheme, especially for those who will have obligations under the proposed Regulations.

Public meetings will be held nationally between 13 September 2011 and

21 September 2011 in all capital cities. For more information, please visit environment.gov.au/ewaste.

There is also an opportunity for face-to-face discussions with Australian Government officials in a set number of meetings for potential liable parties under the draft Regulations, or individuals and organisations who have a substantial interest in the Regulations. These meetings are limited to half hour sessions and pre-registration of interest is essential. The department regrets that it may not be able to accommodate all requests.

For planning purposes please pre-register your attendance at the public meetings or the bilateral meetings **no less than three business days before the scheduled date**, by emailing ewaste@environment.gov.au. Please include your name, organisation, contact details and number/name of attendees. For those who pre-register interest in having a bilateral meeting, the department will respond with confirmation of the meeting at least a week prior to the date.

The exposure draft of the Regulations will be available shortly via the departments' website at: environment.gov.au/ewaste.

Public Meetings

Date	Location	Time	Venue
Tues 13 September 2011	Sydney	10:00am – 12:00pm	Rydges World Square
Tues 13 September 2011	Adelaide	8:30am – 10:30am	Rydges South Park
Wed 14 September 2011	Brisbane	9:30am – 11:30am	Mantra South Bank
Wed 14 September 2011	Melbourne	8:30am – 10:30am	Oaks on Collins
Mon 19 September 2011	Canberra	8:30am – 10:30am	National Portrait Gallery
Tues 20 September 2011	Hobart	11:00am – 13:00pm	Grande Mercure Hadley's Hotel
Tues 20 September 2011	Darwin	9:30am – 11:30am	Mantra Pandanas
Wed 21 September 2011	Perth	8:30am – 10:30am	The New Esplanade Hotel

Transboundary movement of electronic waste

The Basel Convention

The Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (the Basel Convention) is an agreement between 176 countries, including Australia. It has been in force since 1992 and regulates the transboundary movement of wastes that are hazardous in nature between member countries.

The Basel Convention requires member states to ensure that hazardous wastes are managed and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner and that the TBM of these wastes is minimised.

Member countries regulate the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes through a 'prior informed consent' system, whereby importing and transit countries are notified of hazardous wastes proposed for export to or transit through their country. Without the consent of all concerned countries, a transboundary movement of waste cannot occur. In practice this prevents the import of hazardous wastes into a country if it does not want the waste or does not have the capacity to manage or dispose of it in an environmentally sound manner.

The Basel Convention sets out categories of wastes to be controlled as well as substances and characteristics that are hazardous in nature. It distinguishes between final disposal, recycling, recovery and reclamation operations.

The Hazardous Waste (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1989

The Hazardous Waste (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1989 (Cth) implements Australia's obligations under the Basel Convention. The Department is responsible for the administration of the *Hazardous Waste Act 1989* and acts as the Australian 'competent authority' for the Basel Convention.

The Hazardous Waste Act requires that a permit be obtained before hazardous waste is exported, imported or transited through Australia, and that any such transboundary movement be conducted in an environmentally sound manner. The Act also provides penalties for non-compliance.

E-waste

Waste electrical or electronic equipment, parts and accessories (e-waste) are generally considered to be a hazardous waste, particularly if mixed or unsorted and regardless of whether the e-waste is being exported for recycling or recovery operations. E-waste may pose a threat to human health and the environment if not managed or disposed of in an environmentally sound manner.

A growing global awareness of the transboundary movement of e-waste has prompted many countries to tighten controls in order to minimise the influx of hazardous e-waste from developed to developing countries. For this reason it is critical to check with the proposed country of import before exporting any e-waste, even if it is destined for re-use.

Persons considering exporting or importing e-waste should contact the Hazardous Waste Team at the department (1800 803 772; hwa@environment.gov.au) in order to confirm whether a permit is required under the Hazardous Waste Act.

Re-use

Used whole computers may be exported or imported into Australia if the exporter or importer has evidence that the goods are in working order prior to shipment and a valid contract with the receiving party exists. This documentation should be supplied to the Department's Hazardous Waste Team prior to the transboundary movement.

Applying for a permit

If e-waste proposed for import or export is hazardous, an application for a permit under the Hazardous Waste Act is necessary. Application forms and procedures are available at:

environment.gov.au/settlements/chemicals/hazardous-waste/index.html

Details of permit applications are published in the Australian Government Gazette at: [ag.gov.au/portal/govgazonline.nsf/\(custom-govnot-pub-view\)?OpenView](http://ag.gov.au/portal/govgazonline.nsf/(custom-govnot-pub-view)?OpenView)

AIIA and PSA – Transboundary movement of e-waste

Product Stewardship Australia (PSA) and Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) are well aware of the Basel Convention and will maintain best endeavours to ensure contracted recyclers and other relevant service providers comply with the specific permitting requirements of the Act and the Convention.

It is in the interests of producers, suppliers and brands to maintain the highest levels of environmental performance and compliance in Australia and overseas within the context of delivering their services under the National Television and Computer Product Stewardship Scheme. This is highlighted through the joint AIIA ESIG – PSA Interim Industry Standard which requires service providers to comply with the Hazardous Waste Act at all times, and secure the relevant permits where required.

PSA and AIIA are committed to ensuring that any transboundary movement of wastes (hazardous or otherwise), are in compliance with all relevant laws, treaties and conventions.

By working closely with the Australian Government and regulators at all levels, industry is committed to maintain superior levels of environmental quality, including specific attention to avoiding negative impacts and issues related to human health and environmental harm.

A copy of the AIIA ESIG-PSA Interim Industry Standard on the Collection, Transport and Recycling of End-of-life Televisions and Computers is available at:
www.productstewardship.asn.au



Information available on the department's website

The department has released several reports relating to the development and implementation of the Scheme.

Two independent reviews on the AIIA and PSA draft interim industry standard have been completed, including a fit for purpose analysis by Tim Rogers and a risk and cost implications paper by KMH Environmental.

Caple and Associates Pty Ltd undertook a comprehensive baseline analysis of occupational health and safety statistics specific to the Australian e-waste recycling industry. This study presents aggregated data on reported occupational health and safety incidents and Workers' Compensation Claims related to the collection, storage, handling, transport, treatment and processing of e-waste.

The analysis of submissions on the consultation paper on proposed Regulations provides a summary of the 62 submissions received as part of the consultation process undertaken in March and April 2011. More information is available on page 2.

The reports are available at:
environment.gov.au/settlements/waste/ewaste/publications/index.html

In addition, a set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the National Television and Computer Product Stewardship Scheme is also available on this website.

The FAQs aim to provide general information on the how the Scheme will work, as well as specific information which may be of benefit to members of the community, small businesses, recyclers and television and computer manufacturers and importers.

The FAQs can be found at:
environment.gov.au/settlements/waste/ewaste/faqs/index.html.

CONTACT US

If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at:

ewaste@environment.gov.au.

AIIA and PSA – Interim Industry Standard (IIS) for collection, transport and recycling of end-of-life televisions and computers

Best practice e-waste recycling in Australia is gaining momentum with the release of the AIIA ESIG – PSA Interim Industry Standard for TV and Computer Recycling in August 2011.

The standard was developed by AIIA and PSA, following consultation with a broad range of industry and government stakeholders, to manage the risks associated with collecting and processing television and computer equipment.

This standard will take effect for the recycling of end-of-life television and computer equipment for member companies of the AIIA and PSA Product Stewardship Organisation (PSO).

This standard will form the primary contractual requirements between the AIIA and PSA PSO and its service providers. Recyclers that are part of the AIIA and PSA PSO will need to obtain and maintain certification to this standard as well as to ISO14001 (Environmental Management System).

Interested stakeholders can obtain a copy of the Standard by visiting:
productstewardship.asn.au.

TRAINING PROGRAM - OCTOBER 2011

AIIA and PSA will soon be releasing details of a comprehensive training program on their interim industry standard for interested recyclers, auditors, collection points and transporters. Training will focus on the environment, health and safety requirements of the new standard and how to meet the Standard's requirements.

Who should attend?

- Organisations and individuals interested in becoming a service provider for the AIIA and PSA PSO - including recyclers, auditors, councils, collection points and transporters;
- Organisations and individuals seeking to benchmark themselves in e-waste recycling best practice.

When: October 2011

Where: Selected capital cities
(webinars accessible Australia-wide)

Cost: Training will attract a fee to cover the costs of trainers, venue and catering.

TARGETED TRAINING PROGRAMS

Recyclers and auditors:

Full day workshops that incorporate presentations and interactive discussions for e-waste recyclers and auditors.

Recyclers will also be required to attend an additional half-day session on EHS risk assessment prior to the Standards training.

Collection sites and transporters:

A series of interactive webinars will be available for organisations seeking to provide services as collection points and transporters.

This may include councils, social enterprises, charitable recyclers and other relevant organisations.

Register your interest in attending the training program by contacting AIIA-PSA via: inquiry@productstewardship.asn.au.



The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Australian Government or the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities or the Parliamentary Secretary for Sustainability and Urban Water or the Australian Information Industry Association or Product Stewardship Australia.

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