



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL ENVIRONMENT

Sustainable Resources Management, Industry & Air
Waste Management

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**MANDATE TO THE EUROPEAN STANDARDISATION ORGANISATIONS FOR
STANDARDISATION
IN THE FIELD OF WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT
(DIRECTIVE 2012/19/EU (WEEE))**

1. TITLE

Mandate for the development of (a) standards for the treatment of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE).

2. PURPOSE OF THE MANDATE

To develop one or more European standard(s) for the treatment (including recovery, recycling and preparing for re-use) of waste electrical and electronic equipment, reflecting the state of the art.

3. RATIONALE

The regulatory framework governing waste electrical and electronic equipment is

(1) Directive 2012/19/EU on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE).

The purpose of the WEEE Directive is 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 in accordance with Articles 1 and 4 of Directive 2008/98/EC, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Article 8(5) of the WEEE Directive requires the Commission to request that the European standardisation organisations develop European standards for the treatment, including recovery, recycling and preparing for re-use, of WEEE, reflecting the state of the art. Unlike harmonised standards, the references of which are published in the Official Journal of European Union, and which are prepared to support Union harmonisation legislation, these standards do not automatically provide a "presumption of conformity". However, the Commission may in the future adopt implementing acts laying down minimum quality standards based in particular on the European standards developed by the European standardisation organisations.

The European standard(s) requested by this mandate shall assist relevant operators in fulfilling the requirements of the WEEE Directive. The European standard(s) may also give additional guidance to operators beyond the level of protection requested strictly by the WEEE Directive. Such additional guidance should be clearly distinguished from the rest of the text, e.g. figuring as a separate annex or in a separate deliverable. The standard(s) shall distinguish between requirements which are of an informative nature, and requirements which should be used by operators in the recycling chain in order to be able to verify compliance with the requirements in the standard(s).

The standard(s) shall be concrete to treatment operators, even where this involves placing different options of treatment to the disposal of operators for their explicit choice.

- (2) Directive 98/34/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, as amended by Directive 98/48/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, lays down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations, and of rules applying to Information Society services. According to Article 6 the Article 5 Committee of 98/34/EC must be consulted by the Commission before sending standardisation mandates to the European standardisation organisations (ESO). This mandate is issued after consulting the Article 5 Committee under 98/34/EC Directive in December 2012.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE MANDATED WORK

The Commission requests the European standardisation organisations to develop European standards for the treatment, including recovery, recycling and preparing for re-use, of WEEE. Those standards shall reflect the state of the art. Related standards, already existing or under development, shall be utilized and shall be taken into account appropriately. The European standardisation organisations may deliver one standard or a set of standards.

The standard(s) shall cover the treatment of all products within the extended scope of the new WEEE Directive. The treatment of batteries shall be included in the standard(s) where batteries are frequently disposed of together with WEEE, in order to ensure compliance with Directive 2006/66/EC. Specific standards on batteries, already existing or under development and where relevant, shall be taken into due consideration, and shall be referenced.

The standard(s) shall include provisions on data protection where relevant for the treatment of WEEE. The opinion of the European Data Protection Supervisor, as published in the Official Journal C 280 of 16 October 2010, shall be taken into consideration for this purpose.¹

The standard(s) shall cover the collection of WEEE where it is crucial that such collection is carried out in specific ways in order to allow for proper treatment. For example, coverage of options for the proper collection of compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) is very relevant for later treatment. Specific options of collection may be relevant also to facilitate preparation for reuse, which is a priority according to Article 4 of Directive 2008/98/EC.

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:280:0016:01:EN:HTML>

In order to facilitate the self-assessment and documentation of compliance with the Directive by operators, and to facilitate a possible adoption of binding minimum quality standards by the Commission, the standard(s) shall distinguish between normative treatment requirements derived directly from the legal text of Directive 2012/19/EC, especially Annex VII, and between informative treatment requirements going beyond the strict requirements of Directive 2012/19/EC.

The standard(s) may contain detailed process management requirements for the treatment of WEEE, including for its preparation for reuse as defined in Article 3 of Directive 2008/98/EC.

Since the WEEE Directive applies to all treatment operators, regardless their size and market segment, consideration should be given to developing requirements in the mandated standard(s) that do not place unnecessary administrative burdens on organisations of any size, including SMEs.

5. EXECUTION OF THE MANDATE

The European standardisation organisations shall inform the Commission within one (1) month after the receipt of this request if they accept this mandate and of the arrangements to be adopted during its execution.

2 months after acceptance	Time schedule for the execution of the mandate
6 months after acceptance	Presentation of the initial work program to the Commission
24 months after acceptance	Publication of a first suite of standards
36 months after acceptance	Publication of full suite of standards requested by this mandate

The Commission shall indicate within one (1) month its acceptance of the proposed initial work programme and it shall agree with the relevant European standardisation organisation on any changes needed. This mandate covers those work items included in the work programme and as agreed by the Commission.

Relevant European standardisation organisation shall inform the Commission on any new work item it proposes to add in the mandated work programme. Any such modification of the mandated work programme is subject to the Commission agreement.

A progress report of the work carried out under this mandate shall be provided every 12 months after the acceptance of this mandate by relevant European standardisation organisation. This reporting shall continue until all work items identified in the initial work programme have been published as European standards or, failing that, as other European standardisation deliverables.

The text of European standards shall be delivered to the Commission in the three working languages of CEN/CENELEC (German, English and French).

6. ALIGNMENT WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL STANDARDISATION WORK

Where appropriate, alignment with equivalent activities in the ITU and in ISO/IEC should be ensured. Due account should be taken relevant legislation adopted or to be adopted outside European Union, as appropriate, so as to ensure a global market for equipment.

7. BODIES TO BE ASSOCIATED

The European standardisation organisations shall ensure a due involvement of all relevant stakeholders when executing the mandate.

As appropriate, CEN, CENELEC and ETSI shall invite representative organisation of consumers' interest (ANEC), environmental protection (ECOS), workers (ETUI) and small and medium-size enterprises (NORAPME) to take part in the standardisation work.

To ensure wide market relevance of the requested standards, the European standardisation organisations shall inform relevant European and global organisations and consortia, upon their request, on the progress of the standardisation work carried out under this mandate. These organisations should also be informed of the established possibilities to participate in standardisation work.

CEN, CENELEC and ETSI are also requested to consult with the European Commission Directorate-General Joint Research Centre in order to explore if the Commission's research institutes dispose of specific competence to support the standardisation work.