

Code of Good Practice for WEEE

Electrowaste, i.e. waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) contain many hazardous substances, and handling them requires special precautions at every stage of the process - from collection, through processing, transport, treatment and neutralising up to proper recycling.

Unfortunately, there is much pathology on the market of used equipment, which disrupts fair competition. Regrettably, among common practices we find so-called "note trading", changing the category of the waste, overstating or understating reported values, failure to comply with applicable standards or dismantling of equipment outside of the plants which are authorised to do this. The legally imposed free-market principles in conjunction with a control system which is still insufficient lead to a situation where less than half of the total mass of waste circulate in the professional and official system of electrorecycling. This, in turn, does not allow for the development of fair entrepreneurship.

*In the current situation, in order to counteract the above described phenomena and desiring to enhance the positive trends, we decided to create a **set of ethical and business principles** which will promote higher standards of conduct with waste electrical equipment. This will contribute to improving the quality of life, environmental protection and economic growth in Poland.*

The provisions of the Code are not legal standards and are respected by the signatories on a voluntary basis.

I hereby declare that I shall care for the protection of the health and life of the Polish population and for the preservation of the natural environment, which, in the field of electrorecycling can be achieved through the following measures:

1. Compliance with the waste **handling** hierarchy: prevention> preparation for reuse> recycling> other recovery methods e.g. energy recovery> disposal.
2. Applying the principles of **eco-design**, i.e. considering environmental aspects and sustainable consumption rationale, as well as implementing manufacturing procedures that affect the entire product life cycle.
3. Raising awareness and promoting **education** in the field of selective collection, proper treatment and recycling of waste.
4. Supporting **reuse**, provided safety requirements are complied with, an ethical approach, environmental protection and energy efficiency.
5. Striving to achieve higher and higher **standards**. Promoting best practices and supporting quality performance.
6. Adherence to **health and safety at work** principles. Information about the dangers arising from exposure to hazardous waste, initiating educational campaigns among employees.
7. Designing, organizing and maintaining collection points, including storage spots, so as to ensure **safe access**. Collection points shall be protected against damage or theft of waste and their components.
8. Possessing **infrastructure**, which in terms of the size, installed technology and types of processes is suitable for the activities performed, e.g. transportation, processing or recycling.
9. Proper **reporting** of processes performed.
10. **Notifying** national control bodies about encountered irregularities or illegal activities.

This Code is an open document. It can be published, expanded or used for other types of waste. The authors and signatories intend to promote its content in different forms.