

Facilities Management from A to Z

Based on The FM Lexicon by Martin Pickard
published monthly in Facilities by Lexis Nexis between 2008 and 2016

W

EEE Regs

The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations aim to reduce the environmental impacts of electrical and electronic equipment when it reaches the end of its life.

Facilities managers must comply with the WEEE Regulations if they manufacture, import, rebrand, distribute or dispose of electrical and electronic equipment, such as electrical appliances, IT equipment, lighting equipment and power tools.

If an organisation uses electrical and electronic equipment the FM should be aware of their responsibilities when it comes to disposal. The producer of the electrical equipment is usually responsible for the cost of treating and recycling non-household waste electrical and electronic equipment, but business users will sometimes have to pay.

The organisation must comply with its duty of care. This includes storing waste equipment safely, using a registered waste carrier and keeping a waste transfer note when equipment leaves the site.

If the equipment was bought before 13 August 2005, the waste is known as 'historic WEEE'. If this equipment is being replaced, the producer of the replacement equipment must take the unwanted item if requested, even if they are not the original manufacturer. If the equipment is not being replaced then it must be disposed of in accordance with the duty of care and after waste legislation.

If the equipment was bought after 13 August 2005, the waste is known as 'non-historic WEEE'. A bar underneath the crossed-out wheeled bin symbol indicates that the WEEE is non-historic. The equipment producer is responsible for financing the treatment, reprocessing and disposal of the equipment unless both parties agree to an alternative arrangement.

Where an FM makes an agreement with a producer to make private arrangements to deal with WEEE, they must make sure that it is treated, recycled, recovered and disposed of correctly. If the business rents or leases the equipment the organisation that provides it will normally be responsible for disposing of it.

Full details of liabilities under WEEE are given on the Environment Agency website at www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/waste