



Mercury containing lamps under the spotlight An NGO perspective on collection

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WEEE implementation: slow progress for lamp collection



- Despite WEEE directive, waste lamps are STILL not making their way to collection systems
 - UNU study estimates that:
 - only 27.9% of waste lamps arising (category 5B) are actually collected in the EU (28 ktons were collected and treated in 2005)
 - “Full implementation” of the WEEE directive could lead to collection of 87ktons or 60% of waste lamp arising in 2011 (based on estimation and benchmarking between the different schemes)

EEB CONCLUSIONS:

Need to improve collection rates and efforts to strive to collect more lamps

Current WEEE directive is not enough

Little awareness on separate collection of lamps



- Lack of public awareness on WEEE in general :
 - UNU study quotes UK poll (HERALD 2007) and UK survey (Comet) :
 - 71% of people have no idea what the logo means,
 - close to 20% think it means “no wheelie bin collection in this area”,
 - 16% “please do not leave your wheelie bins in the street”
- In the case of lamps, especially problematic:
 - Confusion because not all lamp types are required to be collected separately (cf. incandescent excluded from WEEE)
 - Small size makes it easy to dispose of in municipal bin
 - Lack of knowledge/information on need to avoid breaking of lamps

Current WEEE collection target: inadequate for lamps



- Current WEEE collection target = 4kg/inhabitant per year
 - **The level of ambition of the target is too low.** Some MS already collecting over 10kg/year/pers
 - **The target based on weight** = low incentives to collect lighter appliances (lamps or small household appliances).
 - **The target does not take into account the high differences in WEEE arising between MS.**

CONCLUSION: EEB supports modification of current WEEE collection targets = differentiated per product category to ensure that lighter appliances also get collected



E BEE B recommendations for requirements on lamps

- WEEE directive:
 - Ambitious collection target specifically for lamps (WEEE targets differentiated per product category – and possibly based on the amount of EEE put on the market at national level)
 - General steering towards design for durability, design for recycling with Individual Producer Responsibility
 - Requirements for risk minimisation measures (limiting breaking) in collection systems
 - Better implementation of awareness raising campaigns for separate collection of lamps and to reduce breaking before and during collection

- Other EU instruments:
 - Energy efficiency/ life-span/ resistance to frequent switching requirements (EUP)
 - Additional information requirements on
 - mercury content
 - need for extra care to avoid breaking of lamps during life-time and collection (EUP)
 - Mercury content limitations (ROHS and EUP)

Thank you for your attention !



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