

Ecodesign – The Smart Way to Comply With WEEE & RoHS

As deadlines for compliance with the Waste Electrical and Electronics Equipment (WEEE) and Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) legislation loom closer, electronics producers in Ireland are getting to grips with the challenges this brings.

The WEEE and RoHS directives apply across the EU and aim to reduce the environmental impact of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) by the removal of specified hazardous substances (RoHS) and the reduction and management of WEEE.

The WEEE legislation becomes effective from 13 August 2005. Under RoHS, EEE placed on the market from 01 July 2006 must not contain lead, cadmium, mercury and brominated fire retardants, subject to certain exceptions. WEEE and RoHS impact manufacturers, their suppliers, importers, exporters and distributors of EEE. Key obligations include:-



• designing EEE to prevent and minimise WEEE and remove the specified hazardous substances using ecodesign - the

process of incorporating environmental considerations into product design;

- producers being responsible for collection and recovery of WEEE, to include financially to fund a free consumer EEE take back system;
- product marking and information provision;
- registration, record keeping and reporting.

Making the producer responsible financially for WEEE provides a financial driver to electronics manufacturers to use ecodesign to prevent and minimise WEEE in the first place. Making producers responsible



Business Benefits of Eco-Design

for small and medium sized enterprises in the electronics sector

Date: Wednesday 14 September 2005

Location: Enterprise Ireland, Glasnevin, Dublin 9

Free one day conference & exhibition on:-

- Legal and market drivers for electronics products – WEEE, RoHS, EuP
- Use of ecodesign for compliance as well as competitive advantage
- Industry ecodesign case examples
- Demos & Exhibits from key Irish organisations.

This event is part of a free, European wide information campaign running during 2005 supported by the European Commission. Places are limited so early booking is advised.

For further information and to book go to <http://www.ecodesignarc.info/servlet/is/201>

or contact Linda Colter, Enterprise Ireland, Trade Promotion & Event Mgt.

linda.colter@enterprise-ireland.com; Tel.: + 353 1 206 6402 / Fax: + 353 1 206 6497



Financed by: European Commission



for the environmental performance of their products across their entire lifecycle – from raw materials to end of life – is an increasing trend.

The EU Ecodesign for Energy Using Products (EuP) directive, agreed in April 2005 and expected to come into force by 2007, will require ecodesign to be applied to all EuP (e.g. heating and lighting products, motors, domestic and office appliances) and be a prerequisite for CE mark-

ing. In designing the EuP all environmental impacts (with a key focus on energy) will need to be considered across the entire life-cycle of the product.

Overall, ecodesign is a key element of compliance with WEEE, RoHS and EuP. Enterprise Ireland have been working with Irish industry on ecodesign since 2000 through their Environmentally Superior Products (ESP) programme which provides information and financial supports on ecodesign projects. From this experience, ecodesign is an effective way of improving the environmental performance of products as well as exploiting the business benefits this can bring.

To support Irish industry on this issue, information, guides to WEEE, RoHS and EuP, industry case examples and tools are available free on www.envirocentre.ie/electronics.

Also, Enterprise Ireland is hosting a free one day conference and exhibit in conjunc-



tion with the Fraunhofer Institute and supported by the European Commission on 14 Sept. 2005. This is part of a series of similar events running throughout the EU during 2005 and is the only one in this series for Ireland (North and South). This is designed for the electronics sector based in Ireland (North and South). The event will clarify the legal obligations, business issues and how companies can meet these, gain competitive advantage and other business benefits by ecodesign. ■

■ ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Developments and Wildlife Can Co-exist

Assessment of effects on wildlife (flora and fauna) is a required element of environmental impact assessment (EIA).

Flora and fauna issues range from potential showstoppers such as the presence of protected species and habitats, whereas on brownfield sites they are usually insignificant. Habitat restoration is often necessary for developments that have significant effects on landscapes, such as quarries.

Coveney Wildlife Consulting Ltd. has many years of experience on wildlife issues at all of these levels, including onshore & offshore windfarms such as the Arklow Bank, quarries such as Huntstown in Co. Dublin, infrastructure, and housing.

Coveney Wildlife can provide high quali-

Coveney Wildlife Consulting Ltd.

ty surveys of birds, marine mammals, habitats and general wildlife. It provides professional ecological reports (text, images and graphics). The company has a thorough knowledge of the EU Birds, Habitats and EIA Directives, the Wildlife Acts and planning law relating to wildlife.

It can advise clients at the scoping stage on the likely wildlife issues that an EIA would need to address and modifications to deal with them. This avoids the expense

associated with design changes and possible objections later on. Once survey and assessment work is completed for an EIA, additional modifications and mitigation measures can be designed to further reduce ecological effects. Where required by planning authorities, Coveney Wildlife monitors the ecological effects and the implementation of mitigation measures pre and post-construction. On restoration projects, wildlife features can enhance the subsequent commercial value of the site, in addition to their intrinsic value.

Should you require any further information please contact Coveney Wildlife on Tel 00353 1 2011721, email us at office@ecoveney.ie or go to www.ecoveney.ie. □

Site Investigations by EURO Environmental Services

EURO environmental services, based in Drogheda, is an independent environmental and technical body specialising in the provision of high quality services to its clients. It offers a comprehensive investigative service backed up with highly qualified, on site environmental technicians. EURO environmental has an INAB accredited in-house laboratory, which means it can carry out thorough site investigations and waste management audits and give remediation and re-use advice. It offers treatment and disposal advice, trial pitting, air and dust monitoring and leachate, soil, surface and ground water analysis. EURO environmental can also provide borehole installations and monitoring, asbestos surveying and identification.



There is increasing awareness and legislation concerning the use of 'brownfield' sites, purchasing and selling of potentially contaminated sites and closure of certain industries. EURO environmental's experienced team can advise both purchasers and sellers on such sites, and on aspects of land liability and property due diligence. Various industrial practices have led to substances accumulating in soil or waters on site. Some

common contaminants include oils and tars, heavy metals, organic compounds, soluble salts and mining materials.

EURO environmental continues to focus on quality assurance, customer service, value for money and fast turnaround times. It has increased its scope of accreditation from INAB and is currently applying for our MCERTS accreditation. EURO environmental partakes in the EPA Proficiency Scheme and is a member of the Excellence Through People programme.

For further information on site investigations or any of the other services offered, please contact Kerry or Ruth on 041 984 5440 or visit our website www.euroenv.ie. □