

Changes to the rules regarding the shipment of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)

The United Nations' Basel Convention is an international treaty that agrees global waste shipment rules. All Member States of the European Union are Parties to the Basel Convention. At a 2022 meeting, all Parties to the Convention agreed to amend the rules regarding the shipment of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). The new rules introduced two new waste codes, which make a distinction between the following sub-categories of hazardous and non-hazardous WEEE:

Y49 (new code introduced)

- non-hazardous whole WEEE
- non-hazardous components removed from WEEE
- non-hazardous waste arising from the processing of whole WEEE and WEEE components

A1181 (replaces A1180)

- hazardous whole WEEE
- hazardous components removed from WEEE
- hazardous waste arising from the processing of whole WEEE and WEEE components

These new rules become effective from 1 January 2025. The European Union has adopted a delegated act¹ to amend the Waste Shipment Regulation to ensure the rules agreed at the Basel Convention are incorporated into EU law by this date. The impact of these changes for shipments of WEEE from Ireland will be as follows:

Shipments to countries that **are not** members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

- The new Basel Convention rules apply in full. This means it is prohibited to ship any waste classified as either A1181 or Y49 to non-OECD countries.

Shipments to countries that **are** members of the OECD e.g. Great Britain

- The new Basel Convention rules apply in full.
- Shipments of non-hazardous WEEE (Y49) and hazardous WEEE (A1181) are both subject to the procedure of prior written notification and consent.

Shipments within the EU

- Shipments of hazardous WEEE (A1181) are subject to the procedure of prior written notification and consent.
- For shipments of non-hazardous WEEE, Y49 does not apply and OECD codes GC010 and GC020 apply instead, where appropriate. This means it is still possible to ship certain non-hazardous

¹ [Trade in e-waste \(1\) – amendments to the Basel Convention annexes \(europa.eu\)](#)

WEEE within the EU as a green-list waste. This includes shipments to and from Northern Ireland.

- Examples of non-hazardous WEEE that may be classified as GC010/GC020 include (non-hazardous) printed circuit boards, hard drives, electric motors, compressors, printer and toner cartridges.
- Shipments of non-hazardous WEEE that cannot be appropriately classified as either GC010 or GC020 (e.g. large household appliances) remain subject to the procedure of prior written notification and consent.

It should be noted that wastes that have been processed to an extent that they are covered by other specific waste shipment entries e.g. metal waste (B1010), plastic waste (B3011/EU3011), are not considered as WEEE for the purpose of this notice.

For further information or any other questions about this notice, please contact our office at nationaltfs@dublincity.ie.