



EucoLight – LightingEurope Platform on Article 15 WEEE Directive - Product Sheet on Product Categories

Introduction

The lighting industry, represented by such industry associations as EucoLight (representing European lighting WEEE compliance schemes) and LightingEurope (representing manufacturers of lighting products, equipment and luminaires) has long been involved with the recycling of lighting products and equipment. For example, it played an influential role in the development of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive.

The WEEE Directive sets collection, recycling and recovery targets for several categories, including large household appliances, small household appliances and lighting equipment (lamps/LEDs).

In addition to the legal obligations established by the WEEE Directive, EucoLight and LightingEurope have collaborated to facilitate an exchange of information relevant to the recycling of lighting products. The present document aims to illustrate the information producers already provide for various lamp types and lighting products, based on the Art. 15 WEEE Directive requirements regarding the presence of substances, mixtures, components and other information needed to prepare a product for environmentally-sound recycling.

Disclaimer: The information contained within this document is meant to be used as an indication of what information recyclers need to have to ensure the correct treatment of lighting products. For more detailed information, please contact the manufacturers directly.

Category: Mercury discharge lamps

Items to be removed from any separately collected WEEE:

-) Substances: mercury
-) Components: tungsten-thorium doped cathode

Additional information needed to prepare components or whole appliances for environmentally-sound recycling:

-) To avoid mercury being released, do not break the lamp. Lamps should only be disassembled by a certified local disassembly company.
-) Radiological consequences (radiation exposure) to members of the public are insignificant during the lamp's entire lifecycle, as demonstrated in several studies (e.g. IAEA safety report), and are well below natural background radiation.
-) In Member States of the EU, these lamps need to be disposed of and collected separately from universal waste.

Figures (source: Osram)

