

Dear Stakeholders,

### **Collection of large household appliances (LHA) at Designated Collection Facilities (DCFs)**

The Environment Agency is aware of the issues associated with the accuracy of the small mixed WEEE (SMW) and large domestic appliances (LDA) protocols, in light of the collection of category 1 WEEE items known to contain persistent organic pollutants (POPs) alongside SMW.

The Environment Agency received a request for a regulatory position statement (RPS) to provide reassurance to industry on the continued use of the national LDA & SMW protocols. The Environment Agency has reviewed this request and deems a RPS to be inappropriate. A Regulatory Position Statement applies to an enforcement position where someone is in breach of the regulations. As the protocols sit within current guidance "Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE): evidence and national protocols guidance" they remain in force and anyone continuing to use them would not be considered in breach of the regulations.

As such the Environment Agency considers the SMW and LDA protocols to still be valid for industry use, provided the conditions set out within the above guidance are met. The Environment Agency would not look to cancel evidence notes issued using the SMW protocol for loads that contain Category 1 WEEE items known to contain POPs (such as microwaves, fans and heaters) & SMW. Assuming all other guidance & regulations are followed.

The Environment Agency would strongly encourage industry to review the LDA & SMW protocols as soon as possible.

The Environment Agency will reconsider its position on this issue after 2 years, or when the LDA & SMW protocols are updated, whichever occurs sooner.

I hope this letter provides the clarification required around the Environment Agency's position, as well as the reassurance requested regarding the continued use of the SMW and LDA protocols.

Guidance on how to classify & describe WEEE can be found here;  
<https://www.gov.uk/how-to-classify-different-types-of-waste>  
<https://www.gov.uk/how-to-classify-different-types-of-waste/electronic-and-electrical-equipment>

If you require further information on this subject please contact [weee@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:weee@environment-agency.gov.uk).

Kind regards

Helen Little  
Senior Advisor

Foss House  
1-2 Peasholme Green  
Kingspool  
York  
YO1 7PX