

Toshiba Environmental Vision and Management



EU WEEE Directive

The European Union (EU) Directive on WEEE (waste from electrical and electronic equipment) is intended to protect the quality of the environment and human health through the prudent use of natural resources and the adoption of waste management strategies that focus on recycling and reuse. Member States' WEEE laws are expected to be implemented after August 13, 2005. After this date, producers of almost all electrical equipment will be responsible for their products at the end of their useful lives. Producer responsibility will include meeting labeling requirements, providing information to end-users, channel and treatment facilities, ensuring the availability of collection infrastructure, submitting sales and recovery data, and financing WEEE costs.

Toshiba, like other electronic companies, is working with design teams, suppliers, and other partners to determine end-of-life strategies for our products. Toshiba has followed the development of the WEEE directive since the beginning of 1998 by participating in related working groups on national and EU level. In April 2003 Toshiba established a European Environmental Department responsible for WEEE implementation in Europe. This central function is currently preparing all necessary measures to be in compliance with the WEEE directive, including the transition in each EU-Member State's national law which includes:

- registration in all EU countries
- reporting of quantities sold
- labeling of products effective August 13, 2005

Toshiba Europe GmbH has already signed a Membership Agreement with ERP to participate in compliance schemes in Spain, Portugal, Germany, Austria, Italy and Poland. We are extending our knowledge to help establish return and recycling systems for other countries with initial emphasis in Europe. Our new worldwide environmental goals include an initiative to further improve our planning for the life cycle thinking of all our products.

