

## The WEEE Directive

### What is the WEEE Directive?

It is the EU Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive and is designed to encourage recycling and safe disposal of electronic equipment.

### Does it apply to fire detection products?

There is still some uncertainty about fixed installations such as fire detection systems. In some EU countries, self-contained smoke alarms sold to the general public are clearly included in the scope of the WEEE Directive but commercial fire detectors are not.

### What is Apollo's policy?

We certainly endorse the environmental objectives of the directive. We offer a cleaning and recalibration service for detectors in order to maintain their integrity and a safe disposal service for when they are beyond economic value.

We are taking necessary steps to ensure our compliance with the directive on the assumption that it applies to our products.

However, we believe the lack of clarity over the scope of the directive is unhelpful. It is leading to a different approach by different producers in different EU countries. By working with our trade association, we are encouraging clarification to ensure a uniform commercial position.

### How will WEEE compliance be shown?

We have begun marking our products with the 'Wheelie Bin' logo (shown below) to indicate to end users that products should not be disposed of through the normal waste system.



The logo will either be moulded into the product housing or shown on the product label. It will take some time for marked product to pass through the supply chain.

### How will life-expired products be collected?

Requirements for collection and disposal of WEEE products are being brought into force during 2006 by individual countries.

For products marked with our name as producer, we will be responsible for arranging collection and disposal of products in the UK. We have joined a compliance scheme that will provide all the logistics of this. When end users contact us for return of product, we will be able to provide contact details for the scheme at that time.

For products sold with a different company name, then it is **that company's responsibility** to arrange for the collection and disposal. We recommend to all our customers who are in this position that they also join one of the compliance schemes.

For products sold outside the UK but in other EU countries, it is the **responsibility of the importer to make the collection and disposal arrangements**. The WEEE directive is clear in wanting the collection and disposal arrangements to be done by each individual country in order to avoid excessive transport.

### What about ionisation detectors?

Ionisation detectors are covered by separate rules covering the handling and disposal of radioactive material. We will continue to offer a special service for this with a nominal charge.

For more information about recycling and the WEEE Directive, visit our website:

[www.apollo-fire.co.uk](http://www.apollo-fire.co.uk).

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