



Human Environment and Transport
Inspectorate
*Ministry of Infrastructure and the
Environment*

Rules for the export of used electronic equipment

The European Union imposes strict rules on the export of electronic waste. It actually prohibits such exports to most of Africa.

In African countries, electronic waste is often processed in ways that are dangerous for humans and the environment. Abandoned parts end up on rubbish tips, endangering the health of those exposed to them.

Electronic equipment includes any equipment that you can plug into a wall socket: radio and TV sets, computers, refrigerators, kettles, deep fryers, etc. The European Union regards used electronic equipment as waste unless it works properly and can be used for its intended purpose. As an exporter of used electronic equipment, you need to prove that the equipment – discarded by others – still works. If you cannot provide information showing that the equipment still works, it will be deemed to be waste.

If you export electronic waste or are in any way involved in its export - even as a favour to a friend - you may be contacted by the inspection authorities, such as the police, the Customs Administration, and the Inspectorate of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment.

If you are suspected of exporting electronic waste, the consignment will be stopped. If it is established that you are trying to export electronic waste, heavy fines will be imposed.



Inadequately packed



Properly packed



However, proper packing alone is not enough for electronic equipment to be deemed entirely suitable for use.

Electronic equipment will be deemed to be waste if:

- the equipment no longer works;
- essential parts, such as wires or plugs, are missing;
- the equipment has been damaged, making it obvious that it no longer works or is unsafe;
- the equipment has been damaged to such an extent that it cannot be used for its intended purpose;
- the equipment contains parts that should be removed (such as CFCs, R12 refrigerants or asbestos);
- there is no regular market for the equipment (such as very old computers);
- the equipment is being exported for the recovery of spare parts or raw materials (such as metals).

It is up to you as the exporter to show that the used electronic equipment is not waste.

To do so, you will have to submit the following information:

1. a list of the equipment in the consignment/container, mentioning types and makes and the date on which the equipment was last tested and approved;
2. a contract or invoice showing that the equipment is entirely suitable for use and not in need of repair;
3. a statement from you as the exporter (holder or contractor) that the equipment is entirely suitable for use and not in need of repair.

If this information is absent, the used electronic equipment will be deemed to be waste and may not be exported (or may be exported under special conditions only).

Trade in waste

You will be permitted to trade in waste only if you appear on the VIHB list of collectors, transporters, dealers and brokers. For more information, go to www.niwo.nl (> VIHB-registratie > Dutch regulation on waste (english)). For information on exporting waste, go to www.uitvoeringafvalbeheer.nl (> English > Shipment of waste).

No	CFK	HCFK	OK	HF	OVERIGE
R 11		R 22	R 23		R 170 (ethaan)
R 12		R 123	R 32		R 290 (propaan)
		R 124	R 107 a		R 600 a (isobutaan)
R 13		R 142 b	R 125		R 717 (ammoniak)
		R 401 a	R 134 a		R 744 (CO2)
R114		R 401 b	R 143 a		R 1270 (propeen)
R 500		R 402 a	R 152 a		R 718 (water)
R 502		R 402 b	R 227 ea		
R 503		R 403 a	R 236 a		
		R 403 b	R 316 a		
		R 408 a	R 404 a		
		R 409 a	R 407 a		
		R 409 b	R 407 b		
			R 407 c		
			R 410 a		
			R 507		
			R 508 a		
			R 508 b		
			Isceon 59		
			Isceon 89		



Inadequately packed, with no documentary evidence that the used equipment still works? Conclusion: waste!

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