

Scope of equipment covered by the UK Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations

How to accurately report EEE placed on the market

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Electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) covered by the [Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013 as amended](#) is known as 'in scope'.

Producers of EEE must report to the environmental regulators the weight of EEE they place on the UK market during a compliance year by category.

There are three steps to decide if your EEE is in scope. Check if the product:

- falls under the definition of EEE
- is in one of the defined categories
- is exempt or excluded

Definition of EEE

You can find the definition of EEE in [Part 1 Regulation 2](#).

Electrical and electronic products are not just those connected to a mains supply, but also include wind-up, battery-powered and solar-powered products.

Products that are dependent on electric currents or electromagnetic fields in order to work properly are in scope i.e. when the electric current is off, the equipment cannot fulfil its basic function. Additionally where products have several key/basic functions i.e. it is marketed as a multifunctional product, the fact that one function may not require an electrical current is unlikely to mean the product is out of scope.

The above applies to household and non-household products within the 14 categories.

Categories of EEE

Until 1 January 2019 when the scope of what is EEE widens, producers are required to report products they place on the market in one of 14 categories:

1. Large household appliances	8. Medical devices (except implanted and infected products)
2. Small household appliances	9. Monitoring and control equipment
3. IT and telecommunications equipment	10. Automatic dispensers
4. Consumer equipment	11. Display equipment
5. Lighting equipment	12. Appliances containing refrigerants
6. Electrical and electronic tools (except large scale stationary industrial tools)	13. Gas discharge lamps and LED light sources
7. Toys, leisure and sports equipment	14. Photovoltaic panels

Exemptions

You can find items of EEE that are exempt in [Part 2, Regulation 7](#).

An example of a piece of equipment specifically designed and installed by the manufacturer as part of another type of equipment (not covered by the Directive) is a built-in satellite navigation system installed into cars, boats or aeroplanes.

Note: military equipment products not specifically intended for military purposes but which could be used for either military or civil purposes, such as laptops or keyboards, are in scope.

Exclusions

You can find items of EEE that are excluded from scope in [Part 2, Regulation 8](#). Further information on EEE scope and the definitions of exclusions can be found in the European Union WEEE [frequently asked questions](#) document.

Fixed installations

Large scale fixed installations are excluded from scope. Other fixed installations are out of scope until 1 January 2019.

Fixed installations are defined in Article 3 (1) (b) and (c) of the [WEEE Directive](#).

Elements of a system that are not distinct EEE products in their own right or that do not have a direct function away from the installation are excluded from scope.

Batteries in EEE

If you place products containing batteries on the UK market you need to report the weight of the EEE minus the weight of batteries. The weight of batteries needs to be reported by the relevant producer under the [waste battery regulations](#).

Components, accessories and consumables

Components and sub-assemblies (for example wiring, circuit boards, electric motors) supplied to a business for incorporation into or assembly with a finished product (for example into a washing machine or ICT equipment) are not in scope. It's the finished product that's in scope. Spare parts that are supplied for the repair of a finished product are also not in scope.

Whether an item sold as part of a product is in scope will depend on its interdependence, the product description and expected inclusion in waste EEE. This generally means if it's specifically designed for the product. For example, non-electrical parts of an electronic game such as a board and dice, or a protective case supplied with a power tool are in scope. Packaging, instructions and consumables are not in scope. Consumables in this sense would include dishwasher tablets included with a dishwasher or music book provided with an electronic keyboard.

Accessories such as headphones, computer keyboards, aerial cables which have a function when associated with another product such as a computer, TV or MP3 player are in scope.

From 1st January 2016 toner and ink cartridges with an electronic chip are in scope.

Household (B2C) and non-household (B2B) products in scope

All the categories cover both household (B2C) and non-household (B2B) products. Categories 1 and 2 include 'household' in the title, but this does not mean that similar products specifically designed for non-household use are excluded. All products which fall into the categories, regardless of whether they are used in a household or in a non-household environment are covered by the Regulations. EEE likely to be used both in a household or non-household environment shall be considered to be household EEE. This is known as 'dual use' EEE.

Further information on how to classify products as B2C or B2B can be found on the [gov.uk WEEE pages](#).

Putting lamps and LED modules onto the market

If you put LED lamps or LED modules on to the market as individual products which can be used by an end-user for replacement purposes, you need to report them under category 13 (gas discharge lamps and LED light sources). These were previously reported under category 5 (lighting equipment). There is no change to the classification of products in other categories, such as bike lights and torches that contain an LED light source.

Environment Agency EEE scope decisions

This table gives examples of how the Environment Agency interpreted the Regulations for products they've been asked about. These examples provide clarity and help illustrate the principles of determining what's covered by the regulations and what's not. This advice is not legally binding and we reserve the right to change it if circumstances and our understanding changes.

Product	In or out?	Category	Comments
Air conditioning	In (see comment)	Category 1	Portable air conditioning units are in scope (declare as category 12 if it contains substances used for refrigeration). Air conditioning installed as part of equipment that is not EEE is exempt.
Air curtains	In	Category 1	
Air filtering and extracting systems	In	Category 1	Portable units are in scope. Units installed as part of equipment that is not EEE are exempt.
Air fresheners and perfume sprayers	In	Category 2	Includes the 'plug-in' or battery types
Aerials, antennas and digital TV dishes	In	Category 4	
Baby monitors	In	Category 4	
Battery chargers	In	See comment	The charger needs to be in the same category as the item that it charges (for example, a mobile-phone battery charger is in category 3, while a camera battery charger is in category 4). General battery chargers are in category 2. See also Power packs and power banks
Blood glucose meters / testers	In	Category 8	
Cables	See comment		The cable should be reported in the same category as the item that it is used for. Cables that are not finished products are out of scope. HDMI cables are in Category 3
Cable reel	Out		Reels of cable are out of scope because they cannot function in their own right.

Car-park and traffic management electric barriers	In	Category 9	
Car diagnostic equipment	In	Category 3	Equipment that is plugged into the car's central processing unit to diagnose and record faults depends on electricity to work, and so is classed as equipment that is used to process information electronically.
Chip and PIN credit or debit cards	Out		The card itself is out of scope. The chip and pin is not essential for the bank card to perform its primary function. A bank card can still be used to withdraw money, make payments, without the chip and pin function. The card reader is in scope under category 3.
Clothing with electric components	See comment		Clothing with removable electronic items (such as headphones, bluetooth speakers and so on) are out of scope, but the separable electrical items are in scope and should be declared in the appropriate category. Clothing marketed as a multifunctional product with integrated electrical components that cannot be separated are in scope.
Cooker hood	In	Category 1	If it has a built in LED lamp it is still category 1 because the basic function is as an extractor fan not as a light source.
Decorative lights	Out		All household light fittings are exempt from the regulations. This includes festive lights, lava lamps, fibre-optic lights, night lights and so on. They are not exempt from the RoHS regulations.
Display equipment	In	Category 11	All display equipment (including CRT TVs, plasma screens, LCDs and so on) needs to be reported in category 11 – display equipment. TVs should not be included in category 4 and computer screens should not be included in category 3. Display screens that are a vital part of another product (for example, laptop screens, mobile-phone screens and mp3 player screens) should be declared in the category for the relevant equipment – laptops (category 3), mobile phones (category 3), mp3 players (category 4) and so on. Display equipment also includes any size of similar type of screen used for advertising or showing information.

Disposable cameras	In	Category 4	Disposable cameras that are recycled need to be declared as non-household EEE. Such cameras are normally returned to a film processor, who will either recycle the camera or discard it.
Duty Free	In		Whilst the goods may leave the UK once they are sold - because the end user is travelling - the goods were still supplied to be put on the UK market (for example to British Airways or another duty free operator).
E-cigarettes	In	Category 7	
Extension cords, multi-terminals, adaptors and leads	In	Category 2	If these products are sold in relation to a specific product, use that product category for declaration. Otherwise declare as category 2.
Electric bikes	In	Category 7	Bicycles are not covered in the exclusion for "means of transport for persons or goods" unless they are "type-approved" See the EU frequently asked questions guidance for further details.
Electric fences	In	Category 6	
Electric ironing board	In	Category 2	The ironing board has a specific electronic functionality
Electric showers	In	Category 2	Electric pumps and electric control units supplied as part of a shower package are in scope.
Electric wheelchairs	Out		
Fire-alarm systems	In	Category 9	Finished products that rely on electricity and form part of a fire-alarm system are included as EEE. This could include smoke detectors, alarm bells, lighting, sprinklers, and so on.
Fish tanks	In	Category 7	A fish tank that has a light, heater, or pump and is sold as a single commercial unit is classed as EEE. The whole weight of the item needs to be included.
Fridges	In	Category 12	If it has an LED internal lamp it is still category 12 because its basic function is as an appliance containing refrigerant not as a source of light.

Games consoles	In	Category 7	Included in Category 7 even if they have additional functions such as a DVD player.
Gas cooker	See comment	Category 1	A domestic gas cooker using gas to power its main function as a cooker, but which uses electricity to power an electric clock and the ignition, is not in scope as it will still function as a cooker without electricity. An industrial type cooker that also uses electricity to control the burners, which could not function properly without that electricity is in scope.
Hearing aids	In	Category 8	
In-car entertainment	In	Category 4	Portable DVD players, radios and stereos that rely on a 12-volt power supply and are not permanently installed in the vehicle are in scope. A car radio that is purchased separately to be permanently installed in a vehicle and wired into the car's electrical system, and likely to remain with the car until it is sold or scrapped is out of scope.
Illuminated fire-exit sign	In	Category 5	
Laser lamps	In	Category 13	Laser lamps are fitted into products that may be used in professional medical, cosmetic and engineering industries for a variety of purposes such as welding, engraving or cutting. These lamps should be placed in category 13 as non-household.
LED lamps and modules	In	Category 13	A light source product placed on the market as an individual product which uses light emitting diodes or OLED material as the light source and will be used as a replacement (e.g. for maintenance or upgrade). Includes household and non-household products.
LED indicator light	See comment		Any product containing one or more LED indicator light(s) should be reported in its own category.
LED (individual) and LED sub-assemblies	Out		If supplied to an original equipment manufacturer (OEM) for incorporation into a finished product they are components so out of scope.
LED tape, strips and string	In	Category 13	LED tape, strips or string made available as a finished product to an end user are in scope

Light Switches	Out		Out of scope unless they have additional functionality and include active electronics such as a PCB or a circuit breaker, in which case they are in scope and are in category 2.
Loadbanks (testing systems for electric power supplies)	In	Category 9	
Loft ladders with electronic controls	In	Category 2	
Massage chairs and massage appliances	In	Category 1 or 2	Large massage chairs need to be included as category 1. Massage pads that fit onto chairs and other massage equipment is category 2.
Memory cards, USB sticks, SIM cards	In	Category 3	
Mobility scooters	Out		
Photo booths	In	Category 10	Would normally be reported as B2B.
Photovoltaic (PV) inverters	In	Category 9	PV inverters - commonly referred to as solar inverters - are specifically given as in scope in the EU FAQs. Inverters used in most small to medium PV installations are likely to be classed as household, including micro-inverters. Inverters which are capable of being used in households and commercial applications would fall under the dual use position and must be declared as B2C
Photovoltaic (PV) panels	In	Category 14	Photovoltaic panels - commonly known as solar panels - are of a generic size and design, such that all should be classified as household, regardless of where they are installed. Panels used in large scale solar farm installations or on commercial premises are still classed as B2C. Solar farms are not considered to be large scale fixed installations.
Power packs / power banks	In	Category 3	Power banks are rechargeable or single use batteries that provide a portable power supply for electronic devices. Commonly used to recharge mobile smart phones or tablets, when no access to mains power is available. Weight of the

			internal battery should be deducted from the overall weight of the power bank unit.
Power supply units (PSU)	In	See comment	These act as transformers to alter the voltage or current, and so are finished products in their own right. They need to be included in the same category as the products they come with (for example, mobile phone, laptop and so on).
Plugs, sockets and adaptors	Out	See comment	Out of scope unless they have additional functionality and include active electronics such as a PCB or a circuit breaker, in which case they are in scope and are in category 2. Plugs sold with or attached to electrical items are included.
Printer cartridges	In	Category 3	Printer cartridges which contain electrical parts and are dependent on electric currents or electromagnetic fields in order to function properly fall within the scope of the Directive. The ink is regarded as a consumable and should be excluded from the weight reported. Printer cartridges which merely consist of ink and a container, without electrical parts, do not fall within the scope of the Directive
Pumps, filters, fountains for garden ponds	In	Category 6	Pumps that rely on electricity are in scope
RFID (radio-frequency identification devices)	In	Category 3	Includes radio tracking devices, anti-theft devices and electronic tags for criminals. The only exceptions are where a RFID is a security feature which forms part of the packaging of a product.
Remote controllers	In	See comment	Generally included in category of the product they were supplied with.
Roller screen with electronic winder functions	In	Category 2	
Satellite navigation (sat nav) systems	In	Category 3	Portable 'sat nav' systems are covered. 'Sat nav' systems that are permanently fixed and wired into a vehicle or yacht are considered as part of the vehicle and, as a consequence, are not covered by the regulations.

Security systems including CCTV	In	Category 4	Security systems which include motion sensors, video cameras or still cameras and display equipment which form part of an integrated system are classed as category 4 – equipment for recording or reproducing sound or images. Any individual components supplied as a single item would need to be assessed as to whether they are in scope and the relevant category, for example a display monitor which is not bespoke may need to be reported in category 11.
Set top boxes	In	Category 4	All set top boxes should be reported in category 4 regardless of any additional functions.
Solar panels	In	Category 14	See also photovoltaic panels
Smart meters	In	Category 9	Smart utility meters that replace ‘standard’ analogue utility meters, which are intended to measure consumption for billing purposes remain the property of the utility company supplying electricity and gas and should be reported as B2B. Add on meters/monitors intended for householders to monitor and manage their energy consumption are B2C.
Solar-powered items such as calculators, watches, garden pumps, phone chargers etc	In	See comment	The category will depend on the product.
Spa baths, hydrotherapy baths, computerised massage baths	In	Category 1	Although the main function of these items is a bath, a large part of the function and feature of the product is based on the added value provided by the electrical functions.
Spare parts	Out		Spare parts supplied to repair EEE are not covered by the regulations, as they are classed as components and not finished products. Note: spare parts may have to meet RoHS regulations. Producers should make sure their products keep to the requirements.
Stairlifts	Out	Does not apply	Stairlifts and other lifts (for example, escalators) cannot be linked to any of the EEE categories and so are out of scope.

Street lights	In	Category 13	Where street lighting is supplied and installed as two discreet products, only the electrical parts are in scope i.e. the lantern, wiring, and control box. This should be declared as category 13. The concrete or steel post is out of scope,
Sunbeds	In	Category 1	Sunbeds are should be declared as category 1. Fluorescent bulbs should be declared as 13.
Taps with built-in lights	Out	Does not apply	Considered a household luminaire therefore out of scope.
Torches and bike lights	In	Category 2	Includes both filament bulb and LED torches.
Traffic lights	In	Category 9	Temporary and mobile traffic light systems are in scope, where they are placed on the market as a single product. Fixed traffic lights installed as part of a road building programme are likely placed on the market as discreet products e.g. steel posts and the lighting & control equipment, in this case only the latter is in scope.
Trailer lights	In	Category 5	Trailer lights - lights fixed to a board and purchased by householders to fix to caravans or trailers should be reported in category 5.
Travel adaptors	In	Category 2	Travel plug adaptors that enable users to plug in equipment designed for use in one country, to the mains supply in another country are in scope. Designed to transfer electric currents and therefore meet the definition of EEE.
Under-floor heating systems	In	Category 1	When powered by electricity.
Utility meters	In	See comment	Digital utility meters are in scope – category 9. Analogue utility meters are out of scope See also Smart meters
Water coolers – bottle or mains supply	In	Category 1	Include in category 12 if it is designed to provide a cooling effect.

Wind turbines	See comment	Category 6	Large wind turbines qualify as large-scale fixed installations so are exempt from the regulations. Small-scale wind turbines that could be used by a household, smallholding or at the roadside need to be included in category 6.
Wind-up torches and radios	In	See comment.	These still rely on electricity to work whether the electricity is generated by the wind-up system or not. The category will depend on the product.
Wire reel	Out		Reels of wire are out of scope because they cannot function in their own right.
X-ray machines	In	See comment	Category will depend on its intended use. For instance, X-ray machines used for security in airports are category 9. X-ray machines used in hospitals are category 8.