

EU Directive 2002/96/EC

WEEE (Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment)

Information sheet published by Belimo Automation AG



Introduction

The new EU Directive 2002/96/EC (WEEE) came into force on August 13, 2005 and lays down procedures for the handling of used electrical and electronic equipment in the member states of the European Union. In effect it specifies that, in future, **manufacturers and importers** (afterwards called *manufacturer*) shall be totally responsible for the disposal of used equipment.

1.) What does EU Directive 2002/96/EC contain ?

The new EU directive lays down the following 7 requirements for the manufacturers of electrical and electronic equipment:

1. Disposal of used equipment

Manufacturers will be responsible for the collection, handling, salvaging and eco-friendly disposal of their products. An appropriate financial guarantee must be provided for any new items of equipment marketed [Article 9, Para. (1)].

2. Disposal of 'historic' used equipment

If items of used equipment are being replaced by equivalent new products, the manufacturer will bear the cost of disposal if the products were marketed before August 13, 2005 [Article 9, Para. (2)].



3. Identification

The products must be marked with the symbol shown in Appendix IV (a diagonal line crossing through the symbol of a rubbish bin) [Article 10]. They must also be marked with the manufacturer's name and the date [Article 11].

4. Information

Within one year of a product first being marketed the manufacturer must make available full information on its various components and materials including data on the nature and location of any dangerous materials and substances [Article 11, (1)].

5. Registration

Manufacturers must be registered as such in the appropriate EU member states. Every year they must provide information on the quantities of electrical products they have marketed and on the arrangements that they have made for their disposal [Article 12].

6. Quotas

Depending on the particular product category, items of used electrical and electronic equipment must attain different specified values of minimum quotas for recycling and salvaging [Article 7].

=> **Note:** With the methods of disposal currently being employed in Switzerland all Belimo products would attain the quotas specified for their particular product categories.

7. Eco-friendly design

The design and manufacture of products should make allowance for and facilitate the subsequent disassembly and salvaging of the products, especially the re-use and recycling of used items of equipment, their component parts and materials. Manufacturers should not market any new products whose design and production make the task of disposal and re-use difficult, unless it is necessary due to reasons of safety or environmental benefit [Article 4].

2. What products are affected by the new directive ?



Basically, the directive is applicable to items of electrical and electronic equipment that fall within the categories listed in Appendix IA. If an item forms part of another type of equipment that does not fall within the scope of the directive it will be excluded from the directive [Article 2, Para. (1)].

The 10 product categories listed in Appendix IA are as follows:

1. Large domestic appliances
2. Small domestic appliances
3. IT and telecommunications equipment
4. Electronic entertainment equipment
5. Lighting fittings
6. Electrical and electronic tools (except large, fixed industrial machine tools)
7. Toys, sports and leisure equipment
8. Medical equipment (except implanted and infected products)
9. Supervisory and monitoring instruments
10. Automatic delivery / display equipment

3. Why are neither Belimo nor its customers affected by the directive ?

One of the EU Commission's working parties, the "Technical Adaptation Committee (TAC)", is currently preparing a catalogue of criteria aimed at defining the actual scope of the WEEE directive. In its current form (September 1st 2009) the catalogue includes the following:

- Fixed installations and related items of equipment, systems, end-products and components do not fall within the scope of the WEEE directive.

With the exception of non-intentional applications, Belimo products always form part of a fixed installation. Therefore, neither Belimo nor any of its customers will be affected by the requirements of EU Directive 2002/96/EG (WEEE).

4. What does it mean for Belimo and its customers ?

- Since you do not bear responsibility for the disposal of your products you do not have to provide any financial guarantees for the task.
- You do not necessarily have to mark your products with the crossed-out rubbish bin symbol, with the manufacturer's logo or with the date when they were marketed.
- You are under no *legal obligation* to provide information on the various components and materials or on the nature and location of any dangerous materials and substances.
- You do not have to be registered as a manufacturer in the appropriate EU member states.
- You are under no *legal obligation* to design your products so that they are especially easy to disassemble or are especially eco-friendly.

Protecting the world's natural resources

Although Belimo is not actually affected by the WEEE directive the company nevertheless actively pursues a policy of protection towards the world's natural resources:

- In the manufacture of our products we avoid the use of any materials and substances that might harm the environment unnecessarily and whose disposal is problematic. Therefore, from the summer of 2006 onwards Belimo will voluntarily ensure that all its products are manufactured to conform to the requirements of the EU Directive 2002/96/EC RoHS (Restriction of Hazardous Substances).
- Belimo will ensure that any new products it develops will remain environmentally compatible throughout their whole service life. For example, the power consumption of the latest generation of Belimo actuators is approximately 60% less than that of previous comparable products.

