



China Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Update
January 4, 2010

On 25 February 2009, the State Council issued the Regulations on the Recycling and Treatment of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment in their final form (China WEEE). The China WEEE, which will enter into force on 1 January 2011, sets out the responsibilities of various parties with respect to the manufacture, import, sale, repair and after-sales service of electrical and electronic equipment, as well as the recycling and disposal of waste electrical and electronic equipment.

Article three of the China WEEE regulation states that the treatment and relevant activities of the waste electrical and electronic products listed in "Waste Electrical and Electronic Products Treatment Catalogue" are subject to the regulations. The State Council has authorized NDRC, MEP and MIIT, which collectively form the WEEE Regulatory Authorities, as the parties responsible for formulating this catalogue. The Catalogue is subject to final approval by the State Council. To date, the WEEE Regulatory Authorities have not published the first list. According to official statements by the State Council Legal Department and MEP, it seems that televisions, refrigerators, air-conditioners, washing machines and computers are likely to be the priority categories for coverage in the first batch of the Catalogue.

The China WEEE requires importers and manufacturers of listed electric and electronic products to use non-hazardous substances in their products to facilitate recycling, comply with the regulations on pollution control for such products, and indicate on the products or in product manuals or instruction booklets the products' toxic or hazardous substance content and any advice on the use and handling of recycled products.

In order to raise awareness about the regulations, ten departments under the State Council, including the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP), the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), and the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), have begun holding a competition about information related to the recycling and disposal of electrical and electronic product waste, which will last through mid March 2010.

