

Electrical and electronic equipment - Information for private households and similar (distance selling)

The Electrical and Electronic Equipment Act (ElektroG) contains a large number of requirements for handling electrical and electronic equipment. The most important ones are summarized here.

1. Separate collection of end of life equipment

Electrical and electronic equipment that has become waste is referred to as end-of-life equipment. Owners of such equipment must dispose of it separately from unsorted municipal waste. In particular, EEE does not belong in household waste, but in special collection and take-back systems.

2. Batteries and Accumulators and Lamps

As a rule, owners of end-of-life equipment must separate spent batteries and accumulators that are not enclosed in the end-of-life equipment, as well as lamps that can be removed from the end-of-life equipment without causing damage, from the end-of-life equipment before handing it over to a collection point. This does not apply if end-of-life equipment is prepared for reuse with the participation of a public waste management authority.

3. Options for the return of end-of-life equipment

Owners of end-of-life equipment from private households can return it free of charge to the collection points of the public waste disposal authorities or to the take-back centers set up by manufacturers or distributors as defined by the ElektroG. You can find out about a collection point near you at: www.take-e-back.de.

Stores with a sales area of at least 400 m² for electrical and electronic equipment and those grocery stores with a total sales area of at least 800 m² that offer electrical and electronic equipment several times a year or on a permanent basis and make it available on the market are subject to the take-back obligation. This also applies to sales using means of distance communication if the storage and shipping areas for electrical and electronic equipment are at least 400 m² or the total storage and shipping areas are at least 800 m². Distributors of distance selling who are obliged to take back electrical and electronic equipment must ensure that the equipment is taken back by providing suitable return facilities at a reasonable distance from the respective end user.

The possibility of returning an end-of-life equipment free of charge exists for distributors who are obliged to take it back, among other things, if a new similar device that fulfills essentially the same functions is delivered to an end user. If a new appliance is delivered to a private household, the similar end-of-life equipment may also be handed over there for collection free of charge; this applies in the case of distribution using means of distance communication for category 1, 2 or 4 equipment pursuant to Section 2 para.

1 ElektroG, namely "heat transmitters", "display screen equipment" or "large appliances" (the latter with at least one external dimension exceeding 50 centimeters). End users are asked about their intention to return the equipment when they conclude a purchase contract. In addition, end-of-life equipment that does not exceed 25 centimeters in any external dimension can be returned free of charge to the distributor's collection points, irrespective of the purchase of new equipment, up to a maximum of three end-of-life devices per type of equipment.

4. Data protection notice

End-of-life equipment often contains sensitive personal data. This applies in particular to information and telecommunications technology devices such as computers and smartphones. In your own interest, please note that each end user is responsible for deleting the data on the end-of-life equipment to be disposed of.

5. Meaning of the "crossed-out trash can" symbol"



The symbol of a crossed-out dustbin regularly displayed on electrical and electronic equipment indicates that the respective device must be collected separately from unsorted municipal waste at the end of its service life.

6. Note on waste avoidance

According to the provisions of Directive 2008/98/EU on waste and its implementation in the legislation of the Member States of the European Union, waste prevention measures generally take precedence over waste management measures. In the case of electrical and electronic equipment, waste prevention measures include, in particular, extending their service life by repairing defective equipment and disposing of functioning used equipment instead of sending it for disposal. Further information can be found in the waste prevention program of the federal government with the participation of the states:

<https://www.bmu.de/publikation/abfallvermeidungsprogramm-des-bundes-unter-beteiligung-der-laender/>

7. Additional information

We are a member of the take-back system "take-e-back". You can find more information at www.take-e-back.de.