

**Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)**

# **IMPLEMENTING THE WEEE DIRECTIVE summary**

**Rune Opheim**

CIVITAS Advisory Group, Norway

Skopje (Macedonia), February 2013

The background of the slide is a photograph of a warehouse. It is filled with numerous metal shelving units, some of which are stacked high. These units contain various electronic equipment, including what appear to be old computer monitors, keyboards, and other electronic components. The lighting is somewhat dim, with a bright light source visible in the upper left corner, possibly a window or a large light fixture. The overall scene suggests a large-scale collection or storage of electronic waste.

**WEEE**

**Waste  
Electrical &  
Electronic  
Equipment**

**Norwegian terms:  
EE products, EE waste**

# EU DIRECTIVE OVERVIEW



2012-19

**Waste electrical and  
electronic equipment  
(WEEE)**

Design for recycling, marking and product documentation  
Collection and treatment of waste products. Financing and organizing

2006-66

**Batteries and  
accumulators**

Banned substances, marking etc.  
Collection and treatment of waste products. Financing and organizing

## Product related legislation, i.e.:

2011-65

**RoHS**

Restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in new electrical and electronic equipment

2011-65

**ErP**

Eco-Design and safety for energy-related products along the whole supply chain. Linked to the CE-mark

1907/2006

**REACH**

Regulation on chemicals and their safe use – Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemical substances

# **WHICH LEGISLATION MUST PRODUCERS COMPLY WITH?**

**Industry & citizens must comply with national legislation – not the Directives**

**Member State decisions on:**

- legal requirements**
- penalties**
- enforcement authorities**



**Directives set the structure and requirements for the implementation into national legislation**



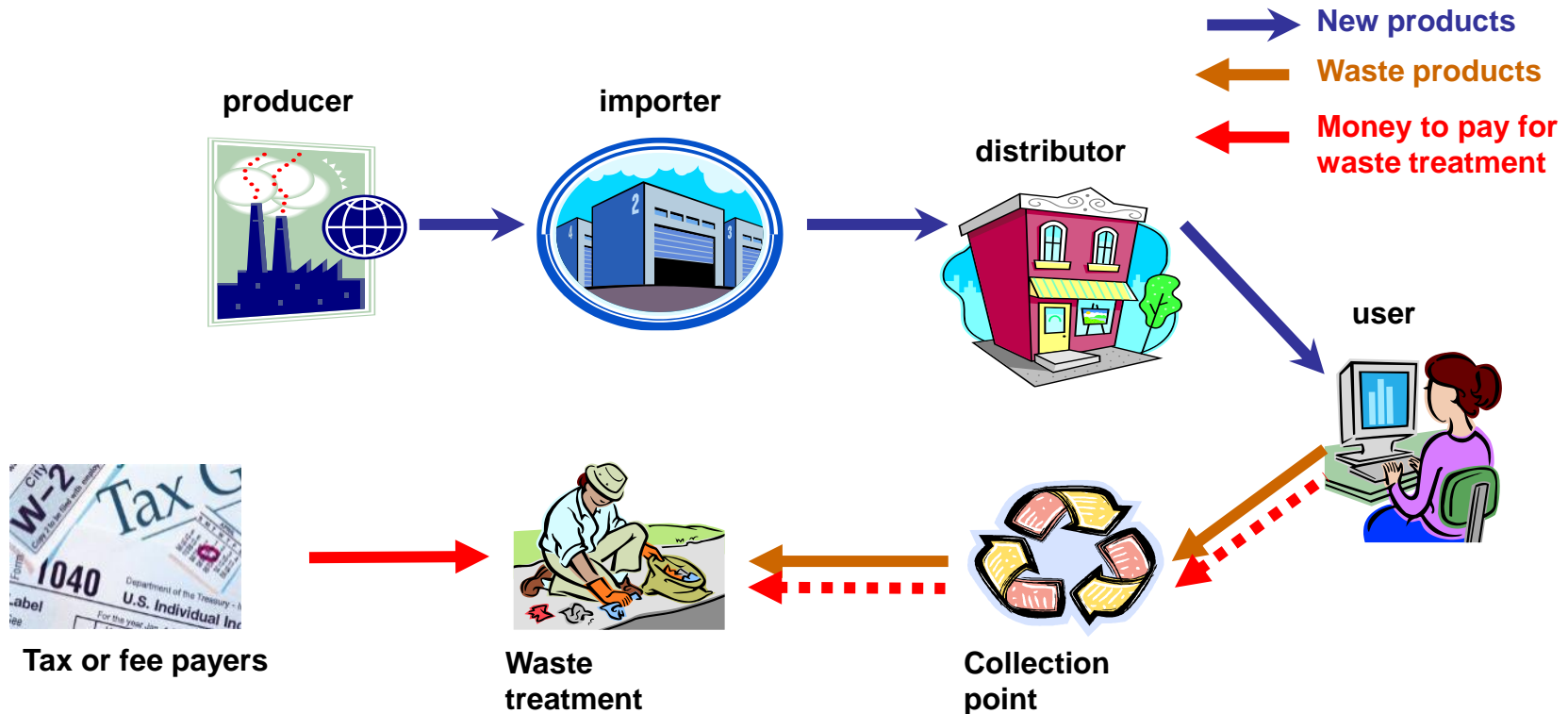
# WHO WILL PAY FOR COLLECTION AND TREATMENT OF WEEE?



**OBLIGATORY  
PRODUCER  
RESPONSIBILITY**

# TRADITIONAL WASTE SYSTEM

– Product & waste flow (simplified)

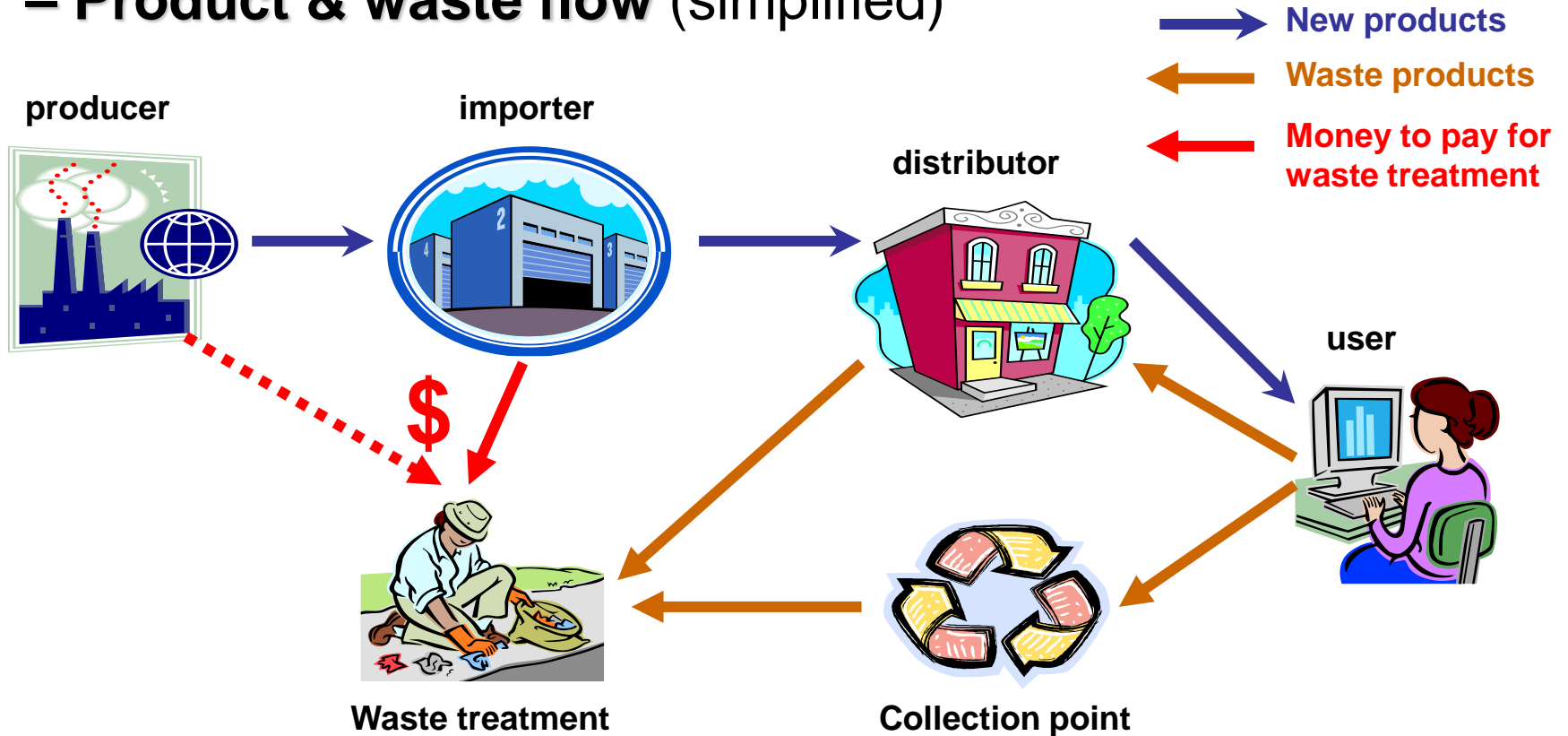


The waste owner or tax payers will cover the collection and treatment costs

These costs are not related to the product's price

# WEEE PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

– Product & waste flow (simplified)



The producer/ importer must pay for the waste treatment  
These costs will be part of the product's price

# **WHY PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY?**

**“Buyers of new products pay, instead of everybody (tax), or those who legally deliver waste**

**Industry has freedom to organize their waste systems – often more effective**

**Incentive for more environmental friendly products, because Industry will have the waste costs. Successful products should therefore**

- be easy to collect**
- be easy to recycle**
- have less hazardous components**

**Required in EU Directives since 1994**



# WHO IS THE PRODUCER?

## In Macedonia:

- **Importers** who bring the products (EEE) into the country
- **Domestic producers**
- For Macedonian products with parts from abroad, the importer(s) and producer(s) together must fulfill the obligation

**The EU Commission (and Court) can act against member states.**

**Member states can only act within their own borders**





# REGSITER OF PRODUCERS

**In each member state**

**Producers, importers, distant sellers  
(authorised representative in each MS)**

**Online reporting required**

**Online communication with registries in  
other member states**

**Same type of registration for batteries**

**National statistics on**

- quantities placed on the market**
- collection data**
- data on re-use and recycling**

**Report to EU Commission every 3<sup>rd</sup> year**



# **DRISTIBUTORS & MUNICIPALITIES**



**Receive WEEE free of charge**

- all household waste**
- one to one base if business waste**

**Distributor will only have to receive the product types he sells, though regardless brand**

**Distributors obligation also covers distant selling**

**Sorting and storing of WEEE**

**Provide information for consumers.**

**Distributors must also provide information in shop placards, on web sites etc.**

**Takeback companies pick up WEEE**



# **PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ORGANISATIONS (PRO's)**

## **– TAKE-BACK COMPANIES**



**Most producers & importers will never be able to fulfil Directive obligations on WEEE and batteries alone**

**Common collection schemes necessary**

- to collect money from producers and importers**
- to collect waste from shops and collection points**
- to organise proper treatment**



**Competitors can be member of the same PRO and/or buy services from take-back company**

# THE NORWEGIAN WEEE SYSTEM

Minister of the environment  
opens new treatment plant:



- 1992:** First initiative for WEEE
- 1993:** Battery collection based on agreement with industry
- 1998:** WEEE regulation proclaimed. Agreements with Industry
- 1999:** Regulation into force (Word's first full scale system). "Take-back" systems in function
- 2005:** Regulation revised to implement WEEE Directive and avoid "free riders"
- 2013:** Implement revised battery and WEEE Directives



# Norwegian TAKE-BACK COMPANIES



**PRO – Producer Responsibility Organisations. They “do the job” for producers and importers**

**Voluntary agreements between authorities and industry**

- Non profit, owned by industry**
- Ensures that take-back systems are available for WEEE (all kinds)**

**Competing (commercial) take-back companies. No individual systems.**



# **WEEE LOGISTICS**

**- run by  
takeback  
companies**



**Takeback companies pick up  
WEEE from shops and municipi-  
palities all over the country**

**Regional points where WEEE  
is sorted and stored before it  
is sent to treatment plants**

**The takeback companies buy  
services from treatment plants  
(domestic and abroad)**

**The takeback companies  
check that treatment plants  
perform well. ISO 14000  
certification is required.**

# **COSTS & BENIFITS IN NORWAY**

**Total import & production near 10 billion € a year**

**System costs: 30 mill €**

**System costs = 0,3 % of new product's value.**

**No significant effect on prices for new products**

**Near 60 % domestic treatment**

**New jobs and business opportunities!**



# **AUTHORITITES - SUPERVISION**



**Surprisingly many producers and importers (14.000 in Norway!)**

**“Free rider problem” – risk of undermining good systems. Solved by the 2005 revision**

**Producer registry important**

**Tough competition - small margins – tempting to “cheat”**

**“Legislation testing”**

**Essential that authorities are willing to stand by what they have put into their legislation**

# **VOLUNTARY AGREEMENTS**

**Between Ministry of Environment and Industry organisations (producers & importers), 1998**

## **Trade organisations:**

- Establish a national system to collect and treat EE Waste. Co-ordinate their related activities**
- Aim to reduce hazardous materials in EE Products**

## **Ministry of Environment:**

- Establish favourable conditions for EE Takeback**
- Effective supervision to secure that the EE Regulations are obeyed;**
- Public information; (together with Industry)**

# **VOLUNTARY AGREEMENTS – EXPERIENCE**

**Efficient systems, and simple regulations,  
Industry may take the honour and use it in their  
marketing, but...**

**Likely to result in monopolies – infringement  
with competition rules**

**Powerful market actors may “squeeze” smaller  
ones and new comers**

**Free rider problems – detailed and powerful  
regulations may be needed anyhow**

**Too much “gentlemen’s agreements”, may be  
problematic**



# CONDITIONS FOR COMPLIANCE

- Practically possible for those responsible
- Competitors must not “get away with” less
- Reasons for legislation understood (but not necessarily agreed on)



# CONDITIONS FOR EU ACCEPT

- **Legal text** (according to national tradition)
  - Directive: 15.000 words
  - Norwegian implementation: 4.000 words
- **Trustworthy and functioning system**
- **Measurable results**





Thanks for your attention!

