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E R R A T U M⁽¹⁾

to the report on the

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council directive on waste electrical and electronic equipment (COM(2000) 347 – C5-0414/2000 – 2000/0158(COD))
Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

Rapporteur: Karl-Heinz Florenz
A5-0148/2001

Amendment 70 should read as follows:

Amendment 70
Annex II, point 1

1. As a minimum the *following substances, preparations* and components have to be removed from any separately collected WEEE:

- PCB containing capacitors
- Mercury containing components, such as switches

1. As a minimum the *materials* and components *defined pursuant to the concentration values referred to in Article 5(1)(a) of Directive . . . /EC of the European Parliament and the Council of ... on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment¹, the following substances and preparations* have to be removed from any separately collected WEEE (*equipment which is completely re-used is not covered by this provision*):

- PCB containing capacitors
- *Electrolyte capacitors (height: > 25 mm, diameter > 25mm or proportionately similar volume)*
- Mercury containing components, such as switches

- Batteries
- Printed circuit boards

- Toner cartridges, liquid and pasty, as well as colour toner
- Plastic containing brominated flame retardants
- Asbestos waste
- Cathode ray tubes
- CFC, HCFC or HFCs
- Gas discharge lamps

- Liquid crystal displays of a surface greater than 100 square centimetres and all those back-lighted with gas discharge lamps

These substances, preparations and components shall be disposed of or recovered in compliance with Article 4 of Council Directive 75/442/EEC.

- Batteries
- Printed circuit boards, ***provided they are not an integral part of the casing of the appliance***
- Toner cartridges, liquid and pasty, as well as colour toner
- Plastic containing brominated flame retardants
- Asbestos waste
- Cathode ray tubes
- CFC, HCFC or HFCs
- Gas discharge lamps
- ***Components containing refractory ceramic fibres***
- Liquid crystal displays of a surface greater than 100 square centimetres and all those back-lighted with gas discharge lamps.

These substances, preparations and components shall be disposed of or recovered in compliance with Article 4 of Council Directive 75/442/EEC.

¹ COM(2000) 347

Justification

If an approach based on the Commission proposal is adopted this would require the treatment of certain non-hazardous components and materials. This would not encourage the development of components containing no hazardous substances. The development of alternatives to hazardous substances would however be encouraged if it was made clear that only material and components containing hazardous substances will require selective treatment. The only exception necessary to this approach would be for liquid crystal displays as information on the particular content of the substances may be hard to obtain.

It must be made clear that Annex II does not cover equipment destined for re-use.

Printed circuit boards are increasingly being incorporated in the casings of electrical and electronic equipment to save weight. This innovation designed to use less material should not be prevented by a requirement, the cost of which would far outweigh any environmental benefit, to treat printed circuit boards separately. If printed circuit boards are made of plastics incorporating brominated fire retardants they already fall under Article 5 of the Directive in any case.

Removal of electrolyte capacitors

Electrolyte capacitors contain dilute inorganic or organic acids. Aqueous solutions of boric acid, phosphoric acid, adipic acid, formic acid, succinic acid, acetic acid, oxalic acid, tartaric acid and citric acid are used. Butyrolactone, dimethylacetamide, dimethylformamide, glycerine,

glycols, amines and aqueous ammonia solutions are used as solvents for the acids and at the same time as corrosion protection additives (ROLLAND 1998). Because of their presence, at least the larger electrolyte capacitors should be removed from WEEE. Capacitors containing PCBs are often difficult to distinguish from electrolyte capacitors, so as a general rule all capacitors should be removed from WEEE.

(1) Concerns a number of language versions.