

§1610. Electronic waste

(REALLOCATED FROM TITLE 38, SECTION 1609)

1. Findings; purpose. The Legislature finds that the establishment of a system to provide for the collection and recycling of electronic devices in this State is consistent with its duty to protect the health, safety and welfare of its citizens, enhance and maintain the quality of the environment, conserve natural resources and prevent air, water and land pollution. The Legislature further finds that such a system is consistent with the overall state solid waste management policy including its intent to pursue and implement an integrated approach to solid waste management and to aggressively promote waste reduction, reuse and recycling as the preferred methods of waste management.

The Legislature finds that the purpose of this section is to establish a comprehensive electronics recycling system that ensures the safe and environmentally sound handling, recycling and disposal of electronic products and components and encourages the design of electronic products and components that are less toxic and more recyclable.

The Legislature further finds that it is the purpose of this section to establish an electronics recycling system that is convenient and minimizes cost to the consumer of electronic products and components. It is the intent of the Legislature that manufacturers of electronic products and components will be responsible for ensuring proper handling, recycling and disposal of discarded products and that costs associated with consolidation, handling and recycling be internalized by the manufacturers of electronic products and components before the point of purchase.

The Legislature further finds that the manufacturers of electronic products and components should reduce and, to the extent feasible, ultimately phase out the use of hazardous materials in these products.

The Legislature further finds that a system of shared responsibility for the collection and recycling of covered electronic devices among manufacturers, consolidators, municipalities and other parties is the most effective and equitable means of achieving the purposes of this section. Manufacturers of electronic devices and components, in working to achieve the goals and objectives of this section, should have the flexibility to act in partnership with each other, with state, municipal and regional governments and with businesses that provide collection and handling services to develop, implement and promote a safe and effective electronics recycling system for the State.

[2007, c. 292, §39 (AMD) .]

2. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Computer monitor" means a covered electronic device that is a cathode ray tube or flat panel display primarily intended to display information from a central processing unit or the Internet. [RR 2003, c. 2, §119 (RAL).]

B. "Consolidation facility" means a facility where electronic wastes are consolidated and temporarily stored while awaiting shipment of at least a 40-foot trailer full of covered electronic devices to a recycling, treatment or disposal facility. "Consolidation facility" includes a transport vehicle owned or leased by a consolidator and used to collect covered electronic devices at municipal collection sites in this State at a cost no greater than the per pound transportation rate for a full 40-foot trailer as approved by the department for each consolidator pursuant to the rules governing reasonable operational costs adopted under subsection 5, paragraph D, subparagraph 1. [2007, c. 292, §40 (AMD).]

B-1. "Consolidator" means a person that provides consolidation and handling services for electronic wastes and that operates at least one consolidation facility. [2007, c. 292, §41 (NEW).]

C. "Covered electronic device" means a computer central processing unit, a cathode ray tube, a cathode ray tube device, a flat panel display or similar video display device with a screen that is greater than 4 inches measured diagonally and that contains one or more circuit boards. "Covered electronic device" does not include an automobile, a household appliance, a large piece of commercial or industrial equipment, such as commercial medical equipment, that contains a cathode ray tube, a cathode ray tube device, a flat panel display or similar video display device that is contained within, and is not separate from, the larger piece of equipment, or other medical devices as that term is defined under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. [RR 2003, c. 2, §119 (RAL).]

D. "Manufacturer" means a person who :

(1) Manufactures or has manufactured a covered electronic device under its own brand or label;

(2) Sells or has sold under its own brand or label a covered electronic device produced by other suppliers;

(3) Imports or has imported a covered electronic device into the United States that is manufactured by a person without a presence in the United States; or

(4) Owns a brand that it licenses or licensed to another person for use on a covered electronic device. [2007, c. 292, §42 (AMD).]

E. "Municipal collection site" means a municipally owned solid waste transfer station or recycling center, including a facility owned by a consortium of municipalities or a facility that is under contract with a municipality or consortium of municipalities to provide solid waste management services. [RR 2003, c. 2, §119 (RAL).]

F. "Office" means the Executive Department, State Planning Office. [RR 2003, c. 2, §119 (RAL).]

G. "Orphan waste" means a covered electronic device, the manufacturer of which can not be identified or is no longer in business and has no successor in interest. [RR 2003, c. 2, §119 (RAL).]

H. "Recycling" means the use of materials contained in previously manufactured goods as feedstock for new products, but not for energy recovery or energy generation by means of combustion. [RR 2003, c. 2, §119 (RAL).]

I. "Recycling and dismantling facility" means a business that processes covered electronic devices for reuse and recycling. [RR 2003, c. 2, §119 (RAL).]

J. "Retailer" means a person who sells a covered electronic device in the State to a consumer. "Retailer" includes, but is not limited to, a manufacturer of a covered electronic device who sells directly to a consumer through any means, including, but not limited to, transactions conducted through sales outlets, catalogs or the Internet, or any similar electronic means, but not including wholesale transactions with a distributor or other retailer. [RR 2003, c. 2, §119 (RAL).]

K. "Television" means a covered electronic device that is a cathode ray tube or flat panel display primarily intended to receive video programming via broadcast, cable or satellite transmission or video from surveillance or other similar cameras. [RR 2003, c. 2, §119 (RAL).]

[2007, c. 292, §§40-42 (AMD) .]

3. Sales prohibition. Beginning January 1, 2006 the following sales prohibitions apply to manufacturers and retailers.

A. A manufacturer not in compliance with this section is prohibited from offering a covered electronic device for sale in this State. A manufacturer not in compliance with this section shall provide the necessary support to retailers to ensure the manufacturer's covered electronic devices are not offered for sale in this State. [RR 2003, c. 2, §119 (RAL).]

B. A retailer may not offer for sale in this State a covered electronic device of a manufacturer that is not in compliance with this section. [RR 2003, c. 2, §119 (RAL).]
[RR 2003, c. 2, §119 (RAL) .]

4. Manufacturer label required. Beginning January 1, 2005, a manufacturer may not offer for sale in this State a covered electronic device unless a visible, permanent label clearly identifying the manufacturer of that device is affixed to it.
[RR 2003, c. 2, §119 (RAL) .]

5. Responsibility for recycling. Municipalities, consolidators, manufacturers and the State share responsibility for the disposal of covered electronic devices as provided in this subsection.

A. Each municipality that chooses to participate in the state collection and recycling system shall ensure that computer monitors and televisions generated as waste from households within that municipality's jurisdiction are delivered to a consolidation facility in this State. A municipality may meet this requirement through collection at and transportation from a local or regional solid waste transfer station or recycling facility, by contracting with a disposal facility to accept waste directly from the municipality's residents or through curbside pickup or other convenient collection and transportation system. [RR 2003, c. 2, §119 (RAL).]

B. A consolidator is subject to the requirements of this paragraph.

(1) Beginning January 1, 2006, a consolidator shall identify the manufacturer of each waste computer monitor and waste television delivered to a consolidation facility and identified as generated by a household in this State and shall maintain an accounting of the number of waste household computer monitors and waste household televisions by manufacturer. By March 1st each year beginning in 2007, a consolidator shall provide this accounting by manufacturer to the department.

(2) A consolidator may perform the manufacturer identification required by subparagraph (1) at the consolidation facility or may contract for this identification and accounting service with the recycling and dismantling facility to which the waste is shipped.

(3) A consolidator shall work cooperatively with manufacturers to ensure implementation of a practical and feasible financing system. At a minimum, a consolidator shall invoice the manufacturers for the handling, transportation and recycling costs for which they are responsible under the provisions of this subsection.

(4) A consolidator shall transport waste computer monitors and waste televisions to a recycling and dismantling facility that provides a sworn certification pursuant to paragraph C. A consolidator shall maintain for a minimum of 3 years a copy of the sworn certification from each recycling and dismantling facility that receives covered electronic devices from the consolidator and shall provide the department with a copy of these records within 24 hours of request by the department. [2007, c. 292, §43 (AMD).]

C. A recycling and dismantling facility shall provide to a consolidator a sworn certification that its handling, processing, refurbishment and recycling of covered electronic devices meet guidelines for environmentally sound management published by the department. [2007, c. 292, §43 (AMD).]

D. Computer monitor manufacturers and television manufacturers are subject to the requirements of this paragraph.

(1) Ninety days after the department adopts rules as provided for in this subparagraph, each computer monitor manufacturer and each television manufacturer is individually responsible for handling and recycling all computer monitors and televisions that are produced by that manufacturer or by any business for which the manufacturer has assumed legal responsibility, that are generated as waste by households in this State and that are received at consolidation facilities in this State. In addition, each computer manufacturer is responsible for a pro rata share of orphan waste computer monitors and each television manufacturer is responsible for a pro rata share of orphan waste televisions generated as waste by households in this State and received at consolidation facilities in this State. The manufacturers shall pay the reasonable operational costs of the consolidator attributable to the handling of all computer monitors and televisions generated as waste by households in this State, the transportation costs from the consolidation facility to a licensed recycling and dismantling facility and the costs of recycling. The manufacturers shall ensure that consolidation facilities are geographically located to conveniently serve all areas of the State as determined by the department. By November 1, 2005, the department shall adopt routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A that identify the criteria that consolidators must use to determine reasonable operational costs attributable to the handling of computer monitors and televisions.

(2) Each computer monitor manufacturer and television manufacturer shall work cooperatively with consolidators to ensure implementation of a practical and feasible financing system. Within 90 days of receipt of an invoice, a manufacturer shall reimburse a consolidator for allowable costs incurred by that consolidator. [2007, c. 292, §43 (AMD).]

E. Annually, beginning January 1, 2006, the department shall provide manufacturers and consolidators with a listing of each manufacturer's pro rata share of orphan waste computer monitors and televisions. The department shall determine each manufacturer's pro rata share based on the best available information, including but not limited to data provided by manufacturers and consolidators and data from electronic waste collection programs in other jurisdictions within the United States. [2007, c. 292, §43 (AMD).]

[2007, c. 292, §43 (AMD) .]

6. Manufacturer plan and reporting requirements. A manufacturer shall develop a plan and submit a report as required in this subsection.

A. A manufacturer shall develop a plan for the collection and recycling or reuse of computer monitors and televisions as follows.

(1) By March 1, 2005, a manufacturer of computer monitors and a manufacturer of televisions shall develop and submit to the department a plan for the collection and recycling or reuse of computer monitors and televisions produced by the manufacturer and generated as waste by households in this State. This plan must be based on the manufacturer's taking responsibility for its products upon receipt at consolidation facilities in the State. Following submission of the original plan, manufacturers may revise their plans at any time as they may consider appropriate in response to changing circumstances or needs only if these revisions conform to the provisions of this section and rules adopted pursuant to this section and are submitted to the department in a timely fashion.

(2) Ninety days after the department adopts rules under subsection 5, paragraph D, subparagraph (1), a manufacturer of computer monitors and a manufacturer of televisions shall implement and finance the implementation of this plan for the collection and recycling or reuse

of computer monitors and televisions produced by the manufacturer and generated as waste by households in this State.

(3) Notwithstanding subparagraphs (1) and (2), a manufacturer may satisfy the plan requirements of this paragraph by agreeing to participate in a collective recovery plan with other manufacturers. The collective recovery plan must meet the same standards and requirements of the plans submitted by individual manufacturers.

(4) The plan developed by the manufacturer must include, at a minimum:

(a) A description of the collection system, including the methods of convenient collection;

(b) A public education element to inform the public about the collection system, including details about meeting all consumer notification and labeling requirements;

(c) Details for implementing and financing the handling of computer monitors and televisions produced by the manufacturer and orphan waste computer monitors and televisions that are generated as waste by households in this State and received by consolidation facilities in this State;

(d) Details for the method of reimbursing consolidators for the costs of handling and recycling the household computer monitors and televisions;

(g) Descriptions of the performance measures that will be used and reported by the manufacturer to report recovery and recycling rates for computer monitors and televisions at the end of life of those computer monitors and televisions; and

(i) Annual sales data on the number and type of computer monitors and televisions sold by the manufacturer in this State over the 5 years preceding the filing of the plan. The department may keep information submitted pursuant to this division confidential as provided under section 1310-B.

(5) A manufacturer is responsible for all costs associated with the development and implementation of the plan. If the costs are passed on to consumers, the costs must be imposed at the time of purchase and not with a fee imposed at the end of life of the computer monitor or television. [2007, c. 292, §44 (AMD).]

B. Beginning July 1, 2007, and annually thereafter, a manufacturer that offers a computer monitor or television for sale in this State shall submit a report to the department that includes the following: a description of the collection, consolidation and recycling services utilized to recover the manufacturer's products; substantiated estimates, on an annual basis for the preceding calendar year, of the quantities of covered electronic devices marketed to retail consumers in this State and collected for recovery in this State; the capture rate for electronics based on sales in this State; and any systems implemented by the manufacturer to ensure environmentally sound management of its products. The department may keep information submitted pursuant to this paragraph confidential as provided under section 1310-B. [2005, c. 561, §8 (AMD).]

[2007, c. 292, §44 (AMD).]

7. Enforcement; cost recovery. The department must enforce this section in accordance with the provisions of sections 347-A and 349. If a manufacturer fails to pay for the costs allocated to it pursuant to section 1610, subsection 5, paragraph D, subparagraph (1), including its pro rata share of costs attributable to orphan waste, the department may pay a consolidator its legitimate costs from the Maine Solid Waste Management Fund established in section 2201 and seek cost recovery from the nonpaying manufacturer. Any nonpaying manufacturer is liable to the State for costs incurred by the State in an amount up to 3 times the amount incurred as a result of such failure to comply.

The Attorney General is authorized to commence a civil action against any manufacturer to recover the costs described in this subsection, which are in addition to any fines and penalties

established pursuant to section 349. Any money received by the State pursuant to this subsection must be deposited in the Maine Solid Waste Management Fund established in section 2201.

[2005, c. 330, §40 (AMD) .]

8. Reports to Legislature. The department shall submit a report on the recycling of electronic waste in the State to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over natural resources matters by January 15, 2008 and every 2 years thereafter until January 15, 2014. The report must include an evaluation of the recycling rates in the State for covered electronic devices, a discussion of compliance and enforcement related to the requirements of this section and recommendations for any changes to the system of collection and recycling of electronic devices in the State.

[RR 2003, c. 2, §119 (RAL) .]

9. State procurement. All vendors of electronic devices to the State shall provide take-back and management services for their products at the end of life of those products and must be in compliance with all the requirements of this section. Vendors shall provide assurances that all take-back and management services will operate in compliance with all applicable environmental laws. Purchasing preference must be given to electronic devices that incorporate design for the preservation of the environment.

[RR 2003, c. 2, §119 (RAL) .]

SECTION HISTORY

RR 2003, c. 2, §119 (RAL). 2005, c. 330, §§37-40 (AMD). 2005, c. 561, §8 (AMD). 2007, c. 292, §§39-44 (AMD).