



November 17, 2008

Important Information Concerning the State of Rhode Island's Recently Adopted Electronic Waste Law (R.I.G.L. 23-24.10)

This correspondence is addressed to manufacturers and companies we believe may be impacted by a recently adopted law in the State of Rhode Island concerning the collection and recycling of electronic waste such as TVs, computers (both CPUs and monitors) and laptops. We understand that each state's law determines a slightly different manufacturer audience. Working from information provided to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) from various other states with similar electronic waste requirements, we are providing this letter to you so you can determine your company's legal/financial obligations.

Rhode Island's Electronic Waste Law

RI General Laws Chapter 23-24.10 (Online at www.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE23/23-24.10/INDEX.HTM)

In the near future, a new comprehensive electronic waste collection/recycling program will be in effect for households and public/private elementary & secondary schools here in Rhode Island. Due to a new law enacted in June 2008, manufacturers of electronic products have individual financial responsibility to take back and recycle their products at the end of the product's useful life from both households and public/private elementary & secondary schools in Rhode Island.

Under the new law, manufacturers must register with RIDEM no later than 1/1/2009, and must either run their own take-back program or participate in a state run take-back program run by the RI Resource Recovery Corporation (RIRRC). All impacted manufacturers are required to pay an annual \$5,000 registration fee to RI DEM no later than 1/1/09, and an additional recycling fee to RIRRC (online at www.rirrc.org). Similarly, as of 1/31/09, electronic waste covered under Rhode Island's law is banned from landfill disposal in Rhode Island (see R.I.G.L. Section § 23-24.10-5 online at www.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE23/23-24.10/23-24.10-5.HTM). Additional specifics on registration can be found on Page 2.

Which electronic products are covered under the law and in the disposal ban? Called "covered electronic products" in the law, they include: computers (CPUs), computer monitors (CRT and flat panel), combination units (CPUs with monitors), laptops (with a screen greater than 9 inches diagonally), televisions (including CRT, LCD and plasma with a screen greater than 9 inches diagonally), and similar video display devices with a screen greater than 9 inches diagonally which contains a circuit board. The law does not cover printers or computer peripherals (e.g. cables, mouse or keyboards) and certain exemptions are included in the law. Please refer to the law for a complete list of exemptions.

Electronics retailers are prohibited from offering covered electronic products for sale in Rhode Island from manufacturers not registered with RIDEM and not in compliance with RI's electronic waste law. RIDEM shall maintain a list on its website for retailers to consult (post 1/1/2009) when determining which manufacturers are in/out of compliance. All manufacturers are considered to be in compliance until RI DEM publishes its first list. Retailers have the responsibility of providing to consumers *at the time of sale* information from RIDEM's website about where and how consumers can recycle old electronics products in Rhode Island.

Please refer to RI's electronic waste law (see www.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE23/23-24.10/INDEX.HTM) for a complete description of RI's electronics program so you can determine your company's specific obligations.

Manufacturer Registration

RIDEM is currently finalizing the necessary manufacturer registration forms and a guidance document to assist manufacturers with registration. Both an electronic version and a hard copy of the completed registration form will need to be returned to RI DEM along with the annual \$5,000 registration fee by 1/1/2009. We strongly encourage you to submit all registrations and payments prior to 12/20/2008 so it can be processed in advance on the 1/1/09 deadline. Numerous manufacturers have already contacted us regarding payment of the registration fee.

Here is the type of information manufacturers have been requesting from RIDEM:

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| RIDEM's Tax Identification Number: | 056000522 |
| Checks must be made payable to: | General Treasurer of the State of RI for Deposit into the Environmental Response Fund |
| A signed, hard copy of your <u>completed registration form</u> & your <u>check</u> must be submitted together to: | RI Department of Environmental Management Office of Management Services 235 Promenade Street Providence, RI 02908 |
| In addition, an electronic copy of your <u>completed registration form</u> must be submitted electronically to: | Electronic copy must be submitted to: rielectronicwaste@dem.ri.gov |

Please check RIDEM's new electronic waste website at www.dem.ri.gov/ewaste/index.htm in coming days for the required forms and additional information concerning the determination of return shares & market shares. The website will be updated quite regularly as program implementation continues. **If you would like direct notification of when the forms are available, please sign-up for our listserv as detailed below.**

RI Electronic Waste Listserv

RhodeIslandElectronicWaste@listserve.ri.gov

We strongly encourage you to sign-up for our *Electronic Waste Listserv*. This listserv is a new, online tool RIDEM is introducing as a way to increase communication with individuals, manufacturers, businesses and organizations about Rhode Island's electronic waste law. This listserv is set up as a one-way communication tool and subscribers will not be able to use this tool to contact other subscribers with replies or posts.

You can subscribe to this listserv by emailing majordomo@listserve.ri.gov with the following command in the subject line and body of the message: *subscribe RhodeIslandElectronicWaste* Please make sure this is the only text in the subject line and body of the email or else your submittal will not work. You will receive an automated response with additional information about the listserv.

All inquiries should be submitted to Elizabeth Stone at RIDEM at elizabeth.stone@dem.ri.gov or 401-222-4700, Ext 2422 (email communication is strongly preferred). Should you need to contact RIRRC about their programmatic responsibilities under the law, please contact Mike Mesoella at mikeme@rirrc.org or 401-942-1430.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Stone