

WEEE Compliance At Scrap Yards – 7 Site Controls The Environment Agency Expects



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Introduction

WEEE flows through many UK scrap yards without always being properly classified or controlled. As Environment Agency enforcement activity increases, small recyclers and merchants need to tighten their site-level procedures. This quick checklist highlights 7 critical controls expected during EA inspections.

Control #1: Clear WEEE Segregation

Mixed metal loads that include WEEE items (e.g. LDA, SDA, microwaves) must be segregated and processed separately.

Action:

- Establish dedicated WEEE storage areas.
 - Train staff to identify WEEE at intake.
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Control #2: POPs Management

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) legislation requires strict handling of certain WEEE items such as fridges and display equipment.

Action:

- Ensure POPs items are immediately identified.
 - Use approved downstream treatment partners.
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Control #3: Consignment Note Accuracy

Waste transfer and hazardous consignment notes must reflect WEEE volumes and classifications correctly.

Action:

- Review paperwork weekly for errors.
 - Ensure all EWC codes are properly applied.
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Control #4: Permitted Treatment Partners

All downstream processors must hold valid AATF or equivalent permits.



Action:

- Maintain up-to-date copies of partner permits and certifications.
 - For export, ensure all shipments are fully compliant with Transfrontier Shipment (TFS) regulations. Pre-notification (PIC) with the EA and approved TFS documentation are mandatory.
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Control #5: Site Staff Training

Site operatives must be able to identify and handle WEEE correctly at point of receipt.

Action:

- Provide refresher training every 6-12 months.
 - Keep training records available for inspection.
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Control #6: Random Spot-Checks

The EA may conduct unannounced site visits.

Action:

- Perform your own periodic internal audits.
 - Ensure visible compliance at all times.
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Control #7: Full Documentary Trail

Auditable records must cover collection, storage, transfer, treatment, and final disposition.

Action:

- Store documents electronically with clear indexing.
 - Retain records for at least 4 years.
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Next Step:

WEEEvolution provides independent site audits and compliance health checks to help you prepare for regulatory visits and avoid costly penalties.

✓ Request a no-obligation compliance audit at www.weeevolution.co.uk/contact