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Audience: Headteachers / Site Managers
Status: For information and advice
Action: n/a

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Your Ref
Our Ref RH/DP
Doc Ref disposal.let
Ask for Roger Higson
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Dear Colleague,

DISPOSAL OF LIGHTING EQUIPMENT – FLUORESCENT LAMPS

WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT (WEEE) DIRECTIVE (2002/96/EC)

I am writing to you to provide you with advice on the safe disposal of "fluorescent lamps". The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive (2002/96/EC) control the disposal of fluorescent lamps.

The removal of fluorescent lamps should only be taken with extreme care to avoid breakage and with the appropriate risk assessment being undertaken and permit to work being completed.

The risk assessment should cover not only the safe removal and disposal of the lamp but also the training of the person undertaking the work, appropriate access equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE) and respiratory protective equipment (RPE). Breakages of the lamp must be avoided at all costs.

Safe storage and disposal of lamps

The defective tubes when removed should be stored in containers especially designed for the storage of such lamps or within the original boxes or in boxes supplied by the lamp recycler * see notes on methods and costs of safe disposal.

- Breakage of lamps should be avoided
- Mark the lamp storage container as "fluorescent lamps for recycling"
- If lamps are accidentally broken, store them in a sealed container. Any debris from the breakage should be carefully removed and added to the container and the surrounding area thoroughly cleaned
- Arrange for the lamps to be collected by the lamp recycler and ensure that you keep copies of the waste consignment notices. * see notes on option for disposal.

Options and costs for safe disposal

I have endeavoured to research the methods available for the safe disposal of lamps. Currently the Environmental Services Department of the Council does not operate a collection and disposal service. However suppliers and contractors do operate in this field of recycling and as such I have provided details of services and costs that my current research has identified.

Cont.

Option 1

Under a term contract within the purchasing section of the Council, Contract C11 a situation exists with Express Electrical Distributors Ltd. Unit 2, Bank Field Industrial Estate, Sandy Lane, Stockport. SK5 7SE, telephone (0161) 477 2355 for both the procurement of lamps and also for the safe collection and disposal.

The lamps should be wrapped and secured in the original packaging prior to disposal. The cost of collection and disposal is calculated at £0.50 pence per item: plus 17½ % VAT.

Option 2

This option is utilising the services of an organisation called Mercury Recycling Ltd. Mercury House, 17 Commerce Way, Trafford Park, Manchester M17 1HW. Telephone (0161) 877 0977 (This service is used by Engineering Services, Street Lighting Section, Tame Street Depot, Stalybridge in connection with disposal of lamps from works associated with Street Lighting).

The method used by the contractor is the purchase by the school of a specially designed container constructed in such a manner as to comply in every respect with the current legislation. The used lamps are placed in the box without the need to secure in the manufacturers packaging. Each box will store 150 no. 1.8m tubes or 450 no 600mm tubes.

The cost of this service is £125.00 for the box plus the cost of £19.50 for the disposal and consignment notices, all charges are subject to the addition of 17½ % VAT and are due for payment when the box is ordered and delivered. The box once on site can remain on site until it is full and then removed by the supplier, Mercury Recycling.

Should you have any questions regarding the safe disposal of fluorescent tubes you should advise me.

Best wishes,

Roger Higson
Assistant Education Officer
Finance, Buildings and Primary School Catering