

Products and producer responsibility: Printer cartridges with electrical or electronic functions



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Further to legislation on producer responsibility for electrical and electronic equipment DPA-System decides whether equipment or products are covered by or exempt from the rules on producer responsibility, cf. the WEEE Order. Also, if the product is covered by the rules DPA-System will assign the product to one of the categories described in the Order¹. In addition, it will be assessed whether the product is used in private households or only in businesses².

The following assessment has been made for the product group of toner cartridges and printer cartridges.

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Assessment according to the WEEE Order

Printer cartridges that contain electrical components and are dependent on electric currents to work in a printer are subject to producer responsibility for electrical or electronic equipment.

Printer cartridges that do not contain electrical components and that are only driven by mechanical effects from the printer are not subject to the rules on producer responsibility and are considered as auxiliaries in line, for instance, with printing paper.

Assessment according to the Battery Order

Any batteries in the printer cartridges are subject to producer responsibility and the duty of registration under the Battery Order. For the producer or the importer of the printer cartridges also using batteries in total or in part this means that the electronic part of the product must be reported and treated according to the WEEE Order and the battery must be reported and treated according to the Battery Order.

Definition and explanation

“Printer cartridges containing electrical components” means all types of cartridges (laser, ink, ink jet) that are fitted in an electrical printer or other plotter equipment and equipped with an electrical component that is intended to work in connection with ink/colour distribution, for instance for control and monitoring of the contents in the printer cartridge.

Printer cartridges may also be equipped with their own print cards and other electrical equipment that depend on electric currents and are intended to work together with the other electrical functions of the printer, which are also subject to the producer responsibility legislation.

¹Read more about the WEEE Categories on the DPA-System website under [WEEE categories](#).

²Read more about end-users on the DPA-System website under [Identification of the end-user](#).

Categories

If printer cartridges are supplied as an accessory to another main product and is packed and sold together with this, the printer cartridges are registered in the same category as the main product, e.g. printers and plotters. If the printer cartridges are sold individually they are categorised in Category 4. Large equipment, if an outer dimension is equal to or more than 50 cm, or Category 5. Small equipment, if an outer dimension is less than 50 cm.