

Policy on Review of Electronic Waste Stewardship Plans

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Approved By: Honourable Mark Parent

Version Control: New Policy

I. POLICY STATEMENT

Nova Scotia recognizes the importance of waste management for the benefit of the environment and economy. Nova Scotians generated approximately 4500 tonnes of electronic waste in 2003. This quantity was projected to rise to 5000 tonnes by 2010. Electronic waste is a growing problem that Nova Scotia Environment and Labour (NSEL) seeks to address through amendments to the Solid Waste Resource Management Regulations to protect our environment and promote recycling and reuse.

This policy outlines criteria to guide the preparation, evaluation, and approval of proposed electronic product stewardship plans (stewardship plans) required under Sections 18J to 18Q of the Solid Waste-Resource Management Regulations, N.S. Reg 25/96

II. DEFINITIONS

Please refer to Section 18J of the Solid Waste-Resource Management Regulations, N.S. Reg 25/96 (Electronic Product Stewardship Program), for definition of terms.

III. POLICY OBJECTIVES

- to outline the information brand owners or third party stewardship plan operators must include in stewardship plan proposals.
- to outline the criteria the Minister of Environment and Labour will use to evaluate stewardship plans submitted for approval.

IV. APPLICATION

This policy will be used by NSEL staff to evaluate stewardship plans submitted for approval and to monitor their implementation. It may also be used by brand owners or third party stewardship plan operators to ensure the plans they submit adhere to requirements and meet expectations of the Minister of Environment

and Labour.

V. POLICY DIRECTIVES

1.0 The following information must be included in stewardship plans submitted to the Minister of Environment and Labour for approval:

- 1.1 List of brand owner (s) that will be covered by the stewardship plan and contact details for each.
- 1.2 Primary contact information of person responsible for the Plan, including details of the organization and/or company that they represent.
- 1.3 Proposed period of programs outlined in stewardship plan.
- 1.4 Sub-definitions of Schedule B electronic products covered by the stewardship plan, including electronic products no longer produced by brand owners but still under legal copyright of brand owners.
- 1.5 Locations of return collection facilities and operating hours, if known. If not yet determined, please describe process and criteria used to select return collection facilities.
- 1.6 A description of the proposed methods to reuse and/or recycle the electronic products. This must include the following:
 - 1.6.1 Methods used to promote the re-use of electronic products when they no longer meet the needs of the consumer but may still have value to others.
 - 1.6.2 Methods used to disassemble end of life electronic products and recycle product components, including information on companies involved in the recycling of the components. If companies have not yet been determined, please describe process and criteria used to select recycling facilities.
 - 1.6.4 Estimated recyclability of electronic products (by weight) and description of methods used to dispose of non-recyclable or hazardous components.
 - 1.6.5 A description of any other business partnerships involved, including the process and criteria used to select service providers.
 - 1.6.6 A description of the methods that will be used to make consumers aware of the program and ensure that they understand the purpose of stewardship program, its environmental benefits, and are aware of collection facility locations.

2.0 The following criteria will be used by the Minister of Environment and Labour to evaluate stewardship plans submitted for approval:

- 2.1 Does the stewardship plan adequately provide consumers with access to a province-wide network of return collection facilities? Stewardship plans representing smaller operations may collect products at point of retail provided that the brand-owner contributes through agreement to a collective plan that includes province-wide collection facilities.
- 2.2 Are return collection and processing facilities located in reasonable proximity to each other in order to promote efficient transportation and movement of materials?
- 2.2 Does the stewardship plan include an agreement with the Resource Recovery Fund Board (RRFB) for managing and receiving electronic waste products at RRFB return collection facilities?
- 2.3 Does the stewardship plan demonstrate that the collected electronic products will be managed in a manner that employs environmental and human health and safety standards (i.e. vendor qualification standards)?
- 2.4 Does the stewardship plan promote responsibility of brand owners based upon allocation of responsibility?
- 2.5 If any surcharges are collected from Nova Scotians on sales of electronics products for the purposes of end-of-life product management, they must be used to fund the diversion of the designated materials included in Schedule B from disposal in landfills.
- 2.6 Are all aspects of the stewardship plan consistent with CCME Principles for Electronics Stewardship?
- 2.7 Does the stewardship plan or program make consumers aware of options to donate electronic products to non-profit groups?
- 2.8 Are the recycling targets included in the Plan reasonable and do they reflect intent by the brand owner to minimize disposal of product components and manage hazardous products in a responsible manner?
- 2.9 Does the stewardship plan contribute to development of business opportunities in Nova Scotia and has the brand owner demonstrated a commitment to manage products within the province, wherever feasible?
- 3.0 Does the stewardship plan contribute to the development and maintenance of a level playing field for large and small brand owners, where applicable?
- 3.1 Does the stewardship plan meet or exceed all applicable federal, Provincial, and local regulations?

VI. GUIDELINES

The Minister of Environment and Labour encourages brand owners to develop stewardship plans that are socially responsible. Where opportunities exist to employ persons with disabilities or other disadvantaged individuals, brand owners are strongly encouraged to give preferential consideration to these partnership opportunities.

Brand owners are encouraged to contribute to Research and Development opportunities in order to promote innovation leading to responsible management of end-of-life electronic products.

VII. ACCOUNTABILITY

The Manager of NSEL Waste Resource Management Branch will be accountable for ensuring this policy's implementation.

VIII. MONITORING

The Manager of NSEL Waste Resource Management Branch will be responsible for determining this policy's efficacy.

IX. REFERENCES

Sections 18J to 18Q of the Nova Scotia Solid Waste-Resource Management Regulations

X. INQUIRIES

Manager, Waste Resource Management Branch

Dated: July 25, 2007

Original Signed By
Hon. Mark Parent
Minister
Nova Scotia Environment and Labour