

MEDIA RELEASE



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NEW STANDARDS FOR E-WASTE

- **Promotes recycling, helps reduce e-waste going into landfill**
- **Supports legal protections of environment, international obligations**
- **Encourages workplace health and safety**

Standards Australia has today announced a new Australian/New Zealand Standard for electronic waste.

“The standard will help to divert e-waste from landfill by providing a rigorous process for its collection, storage, and recycling,” said Colin Blair, Chief Executive Officer, Standards Australia

The Joint Australian and New Zealand Standard, ‘AS/NZS 5377:2013 *Collection, storage, transport and treatment of end-of-life electrical and electronic equipment*’, will outline minimum requirements for the safe and environmentally sound handling of e-waste.

Mr Blair said the standard sets out principles and minimum requirements for end-of-life electrical equipment in order to maximize re-use, reduce the amount of waste going to landfill, safeguard worker health, and minimize environmental harm.

“The standard states that a lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation or adverse health and safety effects. The standard sends a strong message regarding the environmental concerns of e-waste,” Mr Blair said.

Mr Blair said the standard recognizes that there are laws in place regulating how to comply with occupational health and safety requirements and environmental performance, and that Australia and New Zealand are signatories to international agreements on environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and pollutants.

“The standard enhances existing environmental protections and international obligations, while establishing the processes required to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill,” Mr Blair said.

Senator Don Farrell, Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Sustainability and Urban Water welcomed the new standard, which aligns with the Australian Government’s goal of ensuring that e-waste is managed in a manner that protects human health and the environment.

“The new standard will complement the Australian Government’s National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme under which recycling services for televisions and computers are being rolled out to communities across Australia” Senator Farrell said.

“Householders and businesses can drop off unwanted e-waste products confident that the valuable materials they contain will be recovered, and that any hazardous materials

will not enter the environment. The standard also provides environmentally-effective guidelines for industry and will help ensure that, from 1 July 2014, at least 90 per cent of all materials in e-waste collected under the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme are recovered for use in new products.”

ENDS.

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