Products and producer responsibility:
PHS equipment with electrical and electronic functions

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 Order\(^1\). In addition, it will be assessed whether the product is used in private households or only in businesses\(^2\).

The following assessment has been made for the product group of: PHS equipment with electrical functions.

Assessment
Fixtures and dispensers for kitchens, bathrooms, etc. are covered by producer responsibility for electrical and electronic equipment if the fixture/dispenser is dependent on electric currents to work properly.

Criteria for producer responsibility
In pursuance of the WEEE Order producer responsibility applies to:

- Equipment which is dependent on electric currents or electromagnetic fields.
- Equipment for the generation, transfer and measurement of electric currents or electromagnetic fields.

Definition and explanation
Water fixtures (faucets and shower heads) increasingly have electronic functions such as effect sensors or decoration light. In many cases the sensors take over the original way of working of the product in a way that the product does not work without the electronic part of the product. A typical example is the sensor controlled faucet that does not work without the sensor. In some products the electronic elements are only supporting functions, such as a shower head equipped with light in the form of “coloured” water - red for hot and blue for cold water.

In addition to the PHS market for electronic water fixtures there is also a market for electronic/electrical dispensers for soap, paper, and hand driers that are fitted and used in the same environments, such as public toilets. Increasingly, such products are also put on the market for use in households.

It is seen that the use of sensors increasingly affects/covers all functions in bathrooms and kitchens that used to have only a purely mechanical function such as soap and paper dispensers and hand driers. Functions that used to request manual handling are increasingly replaced by electronic alternatives working without contact.

The products were originally developed for professional medicare environments, for instance to create a bacteria-free environment at hospitals, nursing homes, and other health-care facilities. However, the electronic products are no longer reserved for professional environments. The products are used increasingly

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

\(^2\)Read more about end-users on the DPA-System website under [Identification of the end-user](#).
by private end-users (households) where focus of the products is no longer hygiene, but also design and convenience.

Categories
Electronic and electrical fixtures and PHS equipment (faucets, shower heads etc.) are categorised as:

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.

End-user segment:
The equipment must be registered with the end-user segment ‘business’ if it can only be used in commercial businesses. If the product can be used in private households or in both commercial businesses and private households the product will always be categorised as a household product.

Batteries
It is not decisive for the producer responsibility issue whether the power supply to the electrical equipment is a battery or a connection to the grid. It should be noted, however, that for products where the power supply is a battery the batteries will be covered by the producer responsibility of the Battery Order. Read more about producer responsibility for batteries on www.dpa-system.dk.