



Inspectorate of Housing, Spatial  
Planning and the Environment  
*Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and  
the Environment*

# Export of second-hand electronic equipment

**The European Union imposes strict requirements on the export of waste. European rules prohibit the export of waste electronic equipment to countries in Africa without a licence. This waste is often processed in a hazardous manner in West African countries. This is bad for people and the environment. Residue from this waste ends up on rubbish tips. The health of the people who come into contact with the substances released in the improper processing and deposition of this waste is in great danger.**

This information leaflet contains information about the export of used electronic equipment such as radios, TVs, computers, kettles and deep fryers. Electronic equipment is really anything with a plug on it. Within European legislation, second-hand electronic equipment is rapidly viewed as waste, while it still works and can well be used.

Only if the conditions stipulated in this information leaflet are complied with can electronic equipment be considered as a product or second-hand goods. If it does not comply with these conditions, it is considered as waste, and export may occur only under special conditions, or not at all.

People who export waste illegally or are involved with illegal export, even if it is as a favour, may come up against regulatory authorities, such as the police, Customs, or the VROM Inspectorate. If it is suspected that waste is being exported, then the export of the container will be prevented. Once it is certain that an illegal attempt to export waste has been made, fines of up to € 74,000 may be imposed.

You may only deal in waste if you appear on the VIHB list, the list of permitted waste traders, collectors, dealers and brokers. If you wish to export waste, you can find information on the [www.uitvoeringafvalbeheer.nl](http://www.uitvoeringafvalbeheer.nl) website.

*This is what we wish to prevent*



**Electrical equipment is waste if:**

- the equipment no longer works;
- essential parts, such as leads or plugs, are missing;
- the goods are damaged so that it is clear that they no longer work, or are not safe;
- they are not properly packaged, so that a high risk exists that the equipment will be damaged during transport;
- the equipment contains elements which must be removed (such as CFCs, R12 refrigerant, asbestos);
- there is no real market for the equipment (e.g. very old computers);
- the equipment is being exported for the recovery of parts or raw materials (such as metals).

**Test reports**

The owner/exporter demonstrates with a test report that the equipment works and is not waste.

For each piece of equipment it must be indicated:

- who or what company did the test;
- the date of the test;
- a declaration that the equipment may be used immediately (i.e. without repair) for the function for which it was made;
- an identification number of the equipment.

If there is no test report, the suspicion exists that it is waste. If the inspector suspects this, it is up to the owner/exporter to show that the equipment works. If test reports are available, transit in the port is speeded up.



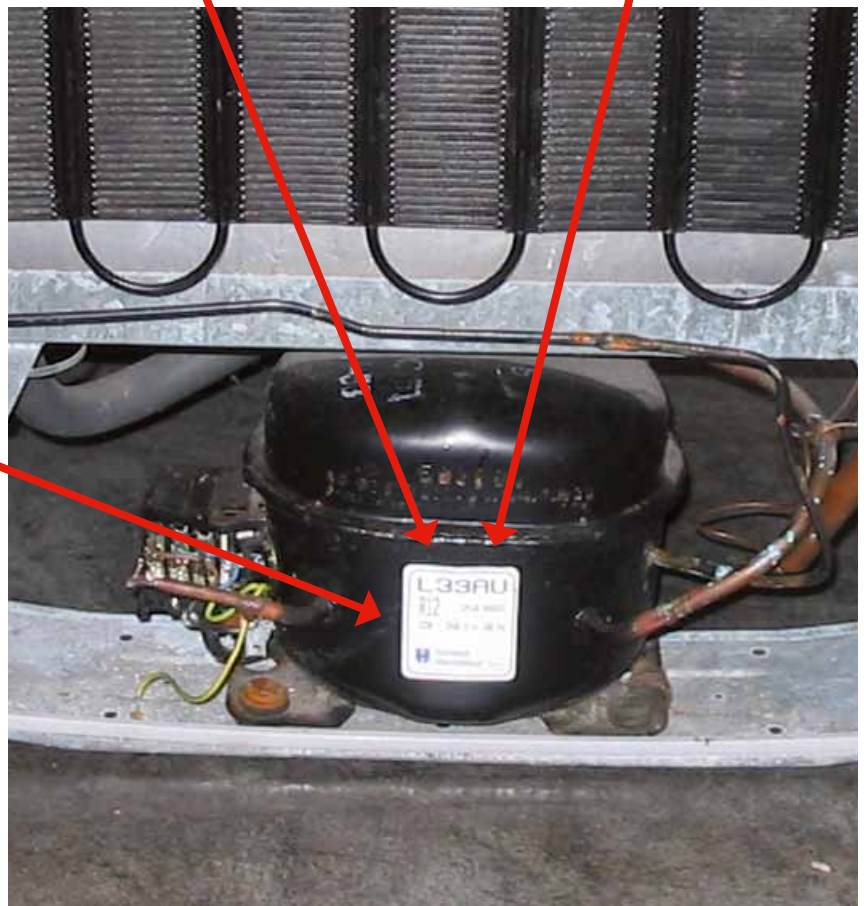




Permitted refrigerants. These are the most common refrigerants, but there are others.



CFC-containing refrigerants, trading and export prohibited



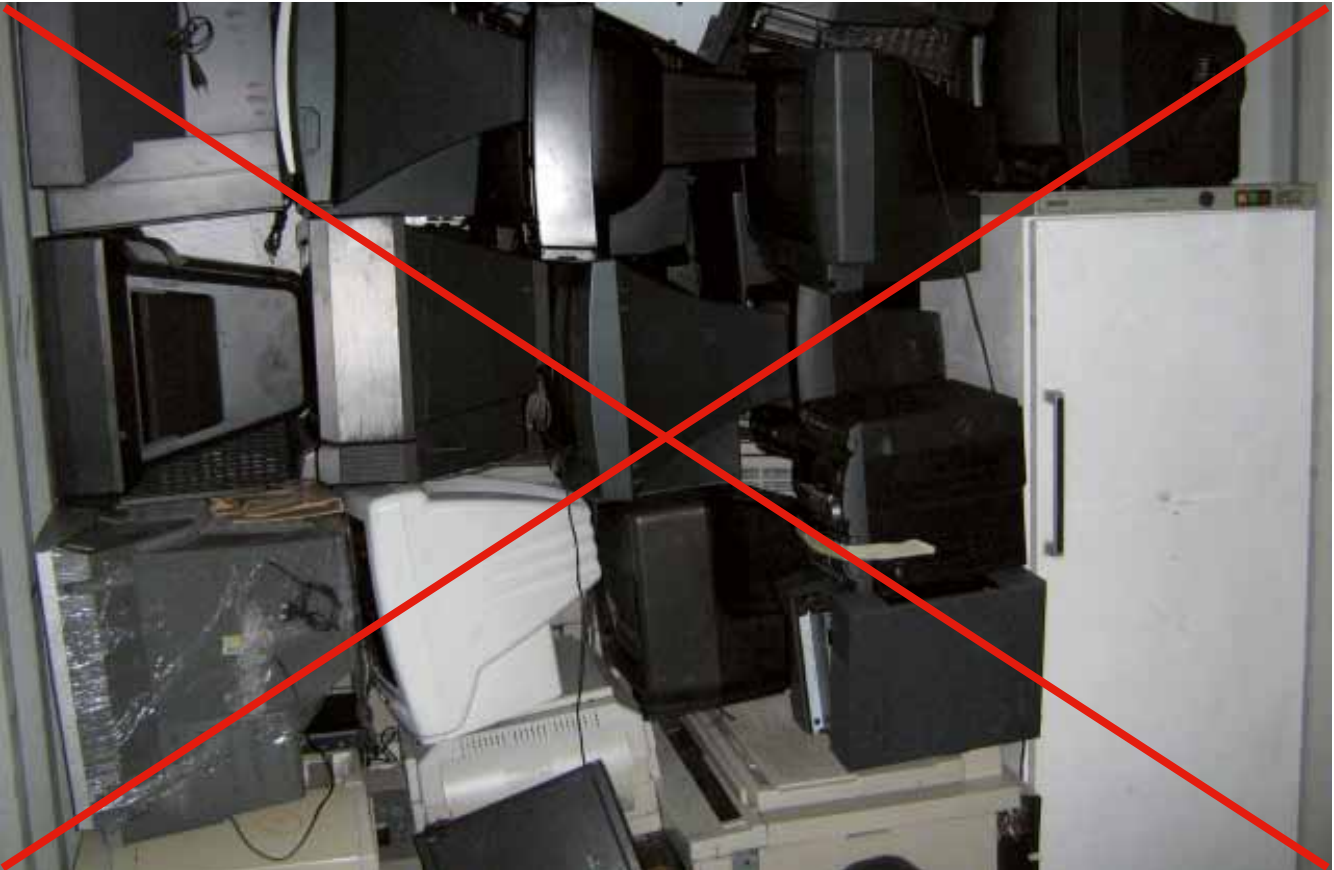








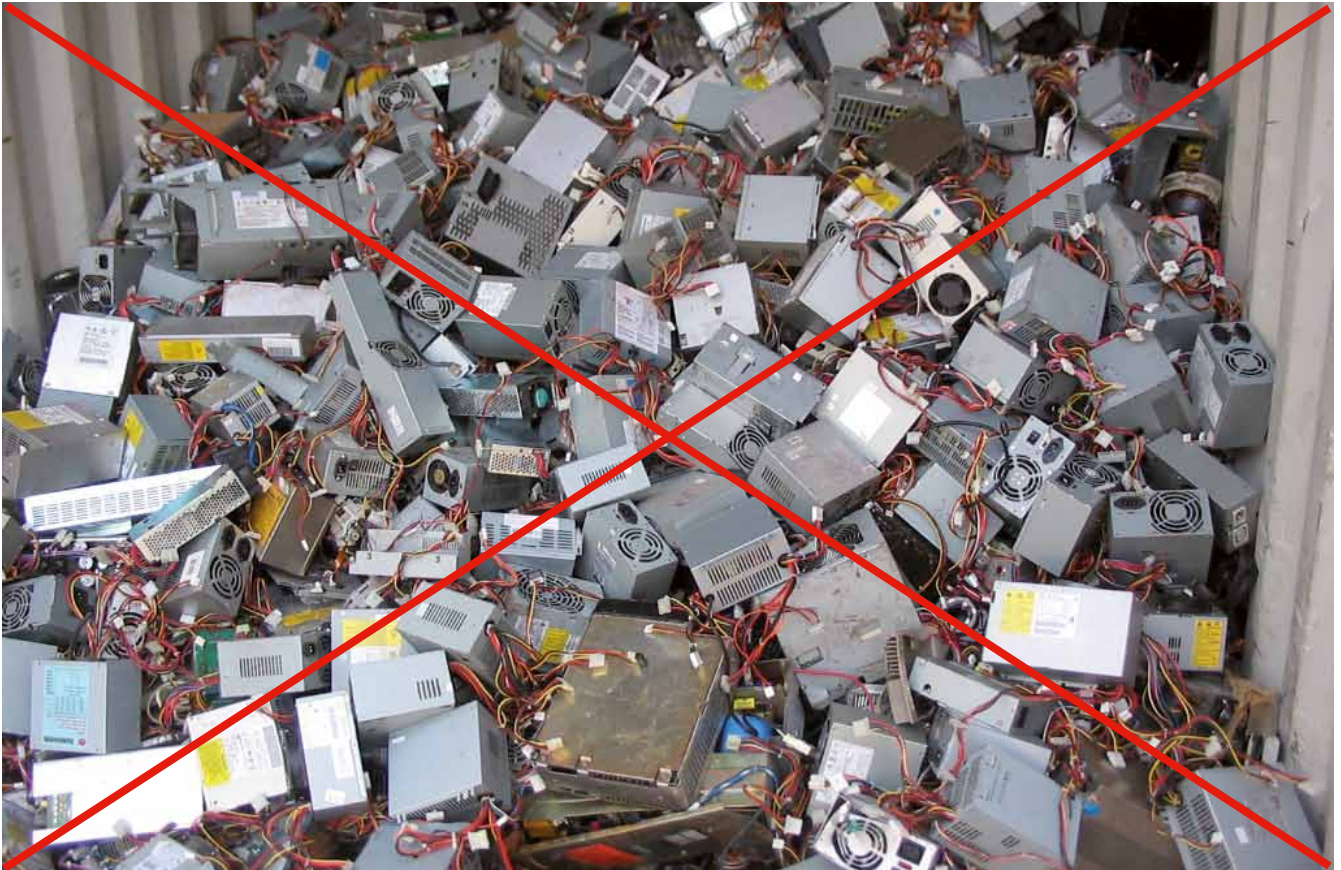






R22 is an HCFC; based on Article 11 of EC Regulation 2037/2000, the export of equipment which requires HCFCs in order to function is prohibited.







**List of the most common refrigerants.**

Prohibited		Permitted	
CFC	HCFC	HFC	OTHER
R 11	R 22	R 23	R 170 (ethane)
R 12	R 123	R 32	R 290 (propane)
	R 124	R 107 a	R 600 a (isobutane)
R 13	R 142 b	R 125	R 717 (ammonia)
	R 401 a	R 134 a	R 744 (CO2)
R114	R 401 b	R 143 a	R 1270 (propylene/propene)
R 500	R 402 a	R 152 a	R 718 (water)
R 502	R 402 b	R 227 ea	
R 503	R 403 a	R 236 a	
	R 403 b	R 316 a	
	R 408 a	R 404 a	
	R 409 a	R 407 a	
	R 409 b	R 407 b	
		R 407 c	
		R 410 a	
		R 507	
		R 508 a	
		R 508 b	
		Isceon 59	
		Isceon 89	

Export of these CFCs and HCFCs and the associated refrigeration and freezing equipment to countries outside the EU is prohibited.

**Imprint**

**Websites**

- [www.vrom.nl](http://www.vrom.nl)
- <http://europa.eu/>
- <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/shipments/guidance.htm>
- <http://senternovem.nl/uitvoeringafvalbeheer/>

**Ordering information**

This publication may be downloaded from [www.vrom.nl](http://www.vrom.nl) under reference VROM 9117

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