



MINISTERIO DE SALUD
REPÚBLICA DE COSTA RICA



COUNTRY REPORT OF.

COSTA RICA

Speaker: Jorge Valverde Quesada
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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Definitions. (As stated in Law.)

Electronic waste: Those from electronic equipment for commercial or domestic use that are damaged, discarded obsolete or orphan, components, subassemblies and consumables which are considered as part of the waste.

Hazardous waste: Are those which by their reactivity or / and by their characteristics such as toxic, explosive, corrosive, radioactive, biological, bioinfectious and flammable ecotoxic or environmental persistence, or by their exposure time, can cause damage to the human health or the environment.

E-waste materials regulated as hazardous: Any e-waste or their components containing heavy metals such as Lead Mercury Cadmium Copper Arsenic Chromium are considered hazardous. To export or import such wastes the International Basel Convention should be complied.

E-waste materials which are currently regulated as hazardous: E-wastes that contain heavy metals. CRT, fluorescent tubes, compact bulbs, lead acid batteries, prohibited refrigerants and due to PCBs ballasts and condensers.

Authority in charge of E Waste. The Ministry of Health has the responsibility on the integral waste management and it works together with others entities as Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Planning, Institute for Municipal Promotion and Advice, National Union of Local Governments, Chamber of Commerce and Industries etc.



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Statistics:

We still don't have information of electronic waste generation available, only for collection.

We will start to obtain information once the Compliance Units begin operating this coming September according to decree No. 35



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DESIRABLE

Avoid,
reduce, reuse,
recovery,
treat, dispose
(The new
approach in the
Law)

Current status of E-Waste.

▶ Previous regulatory efforts and/or existing regulatory framework.

Costa Rica has in place the Law 8839 for Integral Waste Management in general that is a broad regulatory framework for waste. This law distributes responsibility among all sectors of society differentially and induces the adoption of sustainable production and consumption processes. It promotes safe and environmentally sound waste management. It has been implemented through specific decrees as E-Waste Integral Management and the regulation for the declaration of Special Handling Waste in which the extended producer responsibility (EPR) is set up through the requirement that any producer or importer of new or used electronics, have to be part of a compliance unit.

▶ Developments on regulation or standards from the past year.

CEGIRE is the executive committee for integral e-waste management created by this law. It is working at development specific regulations but we can not talk about official standards yet. However some recyclers of e-waste have certification ISO 14001 and ISO 9001.

▶ Anticipated future developments in regulation or standards.

Guidelines on each stage of the integral management of waste will be elaborated and some standards and rulers of control and monitoring for Compliance Units.



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Current status of E-Waste Industries

► **Numbers of e-waste collection companies.**

102 Recyclers authorized according to the regulation and some more pending approval, all those are working in one or more types of waste and in one or more stages of the management, such as transporting collection recycling disassembling exportation or final disposal, 30 of these are specifically related with electronic waste. Registration is valid for 5 years.

► **Environmentally sound waste management and technologies.**

Some Recycler are more advanced than the others mainly the internationals who operating under international standars. They are the minority and are authorized specifically for E. wastes. They give safety training to their staff.

► **Develpments in industry from the past years.**

There are an increase of Recyclers in number from the past year and still remains, but in capacity only in some of them not in adoption of standards yet.

► **Anticipated Future developments in processes and ESM.**

There are plans for workers training following the internacional companies that have their own training plans and standards.



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Relevant Projects or information

- As a government officer I'm currently working with electronic wastes Recyclers authorization process and recently in the diagnosis of actual situation on the management of E-Waste in the country to observe changes and to get statistics data once the compliance Units are operating.



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THANK YOU