



BASEL CONVENTION



Take-Back Systems for Mobile Handsets

**Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and
Technology Transfer for the Caribbean**

31st CANTO Annual Conference & Trade Exhibition

Miami, Florida

United States of America

July 28th, 2015

PRESENTATION ELEMENTS

- The Problem of Mobile Handsets
- CANTO Activities & its CSR Committee
- Best Practices in Establishing Take-Back Systems
- Key Elements of Take-Back Programmes
- Obligations under Take-Back Programmes
- Caribbean Opportunities



E-DEMAND + E-SALES = E-WASTE

- The world's fastest growing waste stream.
- 1992 – 14 million; 2002 – 24 million....Now? Estimated 50 million tonnes of e-waste generated annually.
- Global rise in e-waste is set to reach 65.4 million tons annually by 2017.



THE PROBLEM OF MOBILE HANDSETS

- Over the past few years, there have been significant growth in the ICT sector globally and regionally in order to facilitate human and economic development.
- This has included exponential growth in the use of mobile technologies and supporting equipment:
 - 6.8 billion mobile phones has been used in 2013.
 - Tend to be discarded before they cease to operate.



THE PROBLEM OF MOBILE HANDSETS

- Caribbean ICT industry has traditionally focused on ICT solutions for the benefit of its members and other key stakeholders.
- However, traditionally, there have been limited efforts to guarantee that all end-of-life electronic equipment generated by the sector and its clientele have be managed in an environmentally sound manner.



CANTO ACTIVITIES & ITS CSR COMMITTEE

- CANTO has recognised the importance of the issue of sound e-waste management within the telecoms sector.
- Recognising this fact, CANTO had mandated its CSR Committee to tackle the issue of e-waste, particularly through the sound disposal of mobile handsets and equipment.
- This included the identification of projects and activities as well as the raising of awareness to promote best practices among industry stakeholders.



CANTO ACTIVITIES & ITS CSR COMMITTEE

- During its first year, the Committee was able to develop and disseminate best practices for the disposal of mobile handsets.
- This was based on the legally-adopted Basel Convention guidelines for the environmentally sound management (ESM) of end-of-life mobile phones.
- However, the Committee has since recognised the need to further cement efforts to ensure the proper collection and management of mobile phones and equipment.



BEST PRACTICES IN ESTABLISHING TAKE-BACK SYSTEMS

- It has been noted that there is a lack of official e-waste collection and reverse logistics channels within the Caribbean countries.
- Globally, such issues have been addressed within countries and across regions through the implementation of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Principle.
- The EPR Principle is based on the premise that producers and other key stakeholders involved in the import and distribution of electronic equipment must ensure that all such equipment are managed in an environmentally sound manner.



BEST PRACTICES IN ESTABLISHING TAKE-BACK SYSTEMS

- This stems from the fact that most of the end-of-life (EoL) environmental impacts are predetermined when the product is designed.
- In the case of e-wastes, the EPR principle is typically implemented in the form of take-back systems.
- Take-back systems are variable given the fact that they localise the EPR principle through a multitude of approaches. However, there are some basic elements that remain constant in every system.



KEY ELEMENTS OF TAKE-BACK PROGRAMMES

- Establishment of a take-back system Committee
- Registration of producers and marketers in the system
- Outlining of specific requirements for activities at all levels of the system
- Identification and establishment of the required physical collection points and associated storage areas



KEY ELEMENTS OF TAKE-BACK PROGRAMMES

- Identification and selection of downstream ESM treatment options
- Ensuring legal and regulatory compliance
- Elaboration of the overall system management and accompanying rules
- Establishment of a control and tracking mechanism for the chain of custody (CoC) for the EoL equipment and components



OBLIGATIONS UNDER TAKE-BACK PROGRAMMES

| OBLIGATIONS | MARKETERS | MARKETERS |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Producers must establish, directly or through third parties that act in their name, a system for the collection and ESM of the wastes of products placed by them on the market. Producers should also administer and finance the management mechanisms supporting this system. | ✓ | ✓ |
| Design strategies to achieve efficiency in the return, collection, recycling and disposal of the e-wastes. | ✓ | ✓ |
| Accept the return of WEEE by final users, with or without the incorporation of some advanced recycling cost to the user. | ✓ | ✓ |



OBLIGATIONS UNDER TAKE-BACK PROGRAMMES

| OBLIGATIONS | MARKETERS | MARKETERS |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Establish programmes for the return, collection and final disposal of the WEEE generated from remanufactured EEE (local and imported). | ✓ | ✓ |
| Provide technical and logistical aid to producers in the collection and ESM of wastes from their products. | ✓ | ✓ |
| Prioritise the recovery or valorisation of the WEEE over basic disposal. | ✓ | ✓ |
| Ensure that all heavy metals or other types of hazardous substances contained in EoL equipment are controlled in order to ensure that no pollution is produced and that human and environmental health are protected. | ✓ | ✓ |



OBLIGATIONS UNDER TAKE-BACK PROGRAMMES

| OBLIGATIONS | MARKETERS | MARKETERS |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Ensure that all EoL handsets are managed with and by companies that have the proper environmental license(s), permit(s) or authorisation(s). | ✓ | ✓ |
| Provide the necessary information for the identification and removal of different components and materials in order to encourage reuse and facilitate recycling. | ✓ | ✓ |
| Inform when the equipment contains components or substances harmful to health or the environment. | ✓ | ✓ |



OBLIGATIONS UNDER TAKE-BACK PROGRAMMES

| OBLIGATIONS | MARKETERS | MARKETERS |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Develop informational and awareness campaigns about take-back and proper management of EoL handsets. | ✓ | ✓ |
| Inform product users about the correct manner of return and management of WEEE through clear and complete information on labelling, packaging and/or advertising / awareness campaigns. | ✓ | ✓ |
| Reduce the environmental impact of products through the reduction and substitution of hazardous substances or materials in these products. | ✓ | ✓ |
| Reduce the environmental impact of products through the selection and use of products with less hazardous substances or materials. | ✓ | ✓ |



CARIBBEAN OPPORTUNITIES

- Caribbean operators such as LIME and Digicel in Jamaica have started the process of taking back mobile handsets from customers.
- Warranty returns are also available to customers from operators and marketers alike.
- More concerted efforts are required to ensure that all end-of-life phones on the market are soundly collected and managed through recycling, recovery and proper disposal.
- Great scope for CSR activities in the interest of human health and the environment.



Thank you very much!!

*The Basel Convention Regional
Centre for Training & Technology
Transfer for the Caribbean*

jonellerj.bcrc@gmail.com

bcrc.caribbean@gmail.com

<http://bcrc-caribbean.blogspot.com/>

<https://twitter.com/BCRCCaribbean>

