

ARF (Advanced Recycling Fee) in the case of exporting equipment

The ARF need not be imposed on equipment exports. However, the regulations in the country of destination are to be complied with.

The matter of exported equipment for which ARF was imposed was the subject of considerable discussion during the conception of Swico Recycling in 1994. The importers / manufacturers involved came to the conclusion that a reimbursement system would result in excessive administrative work.

In addition, consideration is to be given to the fact that the amounts of exported goods subjected to ARF and imported equipment that is not (parent companies abroad, purchases abroad, transfers abroad) are almost equal.

The calculated fees are based on the income for the sold equipment in Switzerland. They would be higher if ARF was reimbursed with the appertaining administrative input.

Consideration should be given to the fact that the imposed ARF does not constitute a fee for the purchased piece of equipment. Moreover this income is used to finance the recycling of used equipment (cost allocation method). In this respect the ARF amounts to participation by those purchasing new equipment in the ongoing recycling costs. In addition, Swico Recycling is not geared towards making a profit, it merely covers its costs.

In accordance with the European WEEE Directive, manufacturers undertake to set up a recycling system, and take back equipment free of charge from customers. As result, recycling costs are also incurred in other European countries.