



ILLEGAL EXPORT OF ELECTRONIC WASTE LEADS TO PRISON.

<p>WHAT HAPPENED?</p>	<p>A company providing professional shipping services for used electrical goods attempted to transport six containers of waste electrical and electronic equipment to West African countries.</p> <p>The items included cathode ray tubes, televisions and fridge freezers, which contain hazardous components. It is illegal to export hazardous waste to countries which lack the capacity and infrastructure to ensure the items are treated without risk to human health or the environment.</p>
<p>OUTCOME</p>	<p>The company director was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment, suspended for two years. He was also fined nearly £8000 and ordered to pay a contribution of £5000 to the costs of the Environment Agency investigation and prosecution.</p>
<p>CONTEXT</p>	<p>Duty of Care applies to any establishment or business that produces, transports, treats or disposes of waste as a result of its activities. There are UK and European rules governing how you can ship waste into or out of the country. If you fail to follow them, you may be committing a criminal offence and risk prosecution, financial penalties, and/or imprisonment.</p>
<p>WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN DONE DIFFERENTLY?</p>	<p>It is not illegal to export working, used electronics, but electrical waste can contain hazardous materials and can pose a serious risk to people's health and environment if not disposed of correctly. The controls that apply to waste shipment will depend on the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • treatment planned for the waste when it reaches its destination • country of destination and the transport route • waste type <p>Under your Duty of Care obligations you should ask if your waste is being exported and if so where to.</p> <p>If in doubt, contact the Environment Agency's International Waste Shipments team: shipments@environment-agency.gov.uk</p>