

How to avoid high EPR fees:

- Understand the requirements: Producers of electronics and those who are responsible for putting consumer products' packages on the market must understand the requirements in the markets in which their products and packages are sold. To do otherwise may result in bad press, fines, and the possibility of getting their products and packages banned from the market. By understanding the waste fees associated with products and packages, producers could design product—and require their packaging suppliers to design packages—that incur lower fees, thereby creating a marketing advantage over those who do not.²⁵
- Incorporating waste fees into the cost of the product: There are many fees that producers are now required to pay to fund their products' and packages' disposal/recycling at end of life. Waste fees are associated with EPR legislation are real costs.²⁶
- Maintain necessary data points: EPR mandates place new data demands on the producer of electronic goods/those responsible for bringing packaging to the market. In order to be able to generate reports for electronics, battery and packaging waste fee payments and maintain documentation on material composition, producers must maintain data on, for example, weight, detailed material composition, and component type.²⁷ As is seen in Europe, it is recommended that producers develop a compliance software tool that aids in complying with these requirements. An example of this is the Pack.NET software system developed by Foresite Systems, which calculates waste fees and generates compliance reports for all worldwide electronics, battery and packaging regulations.²⁸
- EPR fees are often based on product/package type or the weight of the product/package.²⁹ Therefore, electronic producers and product packagers should design products and packages that do not have any heavy metals or hazardous constituents. Additionally, because fees are dependent on the weight of both the product and package, it is important to design electronics and packages with lightweight and safe materials.
- If the material is classified as laminated you pay larger fees.³⁰

²⁵ Ibid, sec. V. A.

²⁶ Ibid, sec. V. B.

²⁷ Ibid, sec. V. C.

²⁸ Ibid, sec. IV. B.

²⁹ Ibid, sec. III C.

³⁰ Victor Bell, "Can International Compliance be Harmonized?" *Environmental Packaging International*, for OECD Workshop on Extended Producer Responsibility, May 4-7, 1999, Paris, p. 4.