

Summary

2007 – A YEAR IN RETROSPERSPECTIVE

Looking back on 2007, it can be stated that the NVMP (the Dutch Foundation for the Disposal of Metal and Electrical Products) as an organisation has moved in a positive direction. The shape of the strategic reorientation that was launched in 2006 has become clearer during the past year and the ambitions that were formulated at the time – simpler procedures, smarter systems, a clearer division of responsibilities and better monitoring – have been developed further.

For example, the ISO 9001:2000 certified quality system has now been introduced, and the relevant necessary documentation (quality manual and the description of internal procedures) has been drawn up. The first internal quality audits are currently being carried out, after which a full implementation can take place in the course of 2008.

Working partnerships with various product foundations based on Service Level Agreements have operated to the mutual satisfaction of all concerned. In this context, structured service consultations were carried out with clients that led to a number of improvement measures being taken. The fact that there is now a quality system in place that can immediately convert the findings into better process management has contributed to this.

Dedicated to the development of knowledge

A significant development in 2007 was the deployment of more detailed knowledge of recycling in relation to the value of residual flows and the purity of the separated fractions, particularly in the light of the Annex II substance categories. As a collective system, the NVMP is at the forefront in a European context.

In 2006, an extra investigation was performed by KPMG into the operational and technological aspects of recycling, the results of which provided the NVMP with a good insight into the way the recycling sector works.

Among other things to emerge from the investigation was that it makes sense to look specifically at how each individual processing company deals with the various Annex II substances. In summary, it can be stated that attention to the quality of the yield and to the recycling percentages is satisfactory in the case of the processing companies contracted by the NVMP. However, the quality of environmentally responsible processing appeared to be limited with regard to certain aspects, and seemed to be guided very much by economic factors. The risks associated with the presence of Annex II substances were considered low by the processing companies, opinions they were not able to back up. All in all, there were sufficient reasons for a follow-up investigation, aimed at every Annex II substance category, and this was commissioned last year.

Wecycle: recycling is something we do together

As far as the efforts made in the area of communication and the provision of information are concerned, last year was very much about the launch of a unique communications concept that was supported jointly by the various product foundations and fleshed out according to the needs of each: Wecycle.

Over the next few years, this ground-breaking plan is set to become the driving force of social awareness. In addition, Wecycle will form the basis for dedicated campaigns for collecting and recycling more discarded electrical appliances and light fittings.

Stable calculation models

An important area of back-up provided by the NVMP is that of financing, tax law, debt management and the collection of fees. The role of the NVMP as a 'financial moderator' has clearly gained weight down the years and the calculation models that have been developed have now more or less become a 'social standard'.



For example, the NVMP advises its affiliated product foundations about supply levels and the most favourable tax regimes. Various discussions were organised by the NVMP in 2007 with the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment and the Tax Authorities about the admissible levels of supplies and how future reserves should be dealt with. The purpose here is to establish stable calculation models that form a realistic financial and fiscal basis for the activities of our clients, including after 2011. The NVMP is being assisted by Ernst & Young and OBMC in this matter.

Good market coverage

An important measure of added value is generated by a collective system because it is able – more so than the individual participants acting independently – to look for good market coverage for the various activities in the processing chain. By comparing several suppliers and monitoring their

performance, both the efficiency and quality of the system can be safeguarded to a maximum degree.

In that context, a new contract was signed in 2007 for the processing of cooling equipment, that entails for the first time some Dutch supplies being recycled in Germany. At the same time, an evaluation has taken place of the rates charged by transport companies, while existing contractual agreements have been tightened up and revised where necessary. Thanks to an intensive exploration of European market parties and a professionally organised quotation procedure, it was eventually possible to obtain considerably better financial conditions without standards of logistic and environmental qualities being affected.

Benchmarks in a European context

The NVMP aims to be as an effective and efficient organisation as possible. That means making every effort to secure maximum scale benefits for the collection and recycling of discarded appliances via the NVMP system. To determine to what extent this objective is attained, the NVMP compares its performance with similar collection and recycling systems in Europe.

In comparison to other European systems, the NVMP's results can most certainly be described as acceptable. The total of the categories of appliances collected by the NVMP may lay behind that of the European average, but this is the result of just a single factor – the reduction in the quantities of large household appliances that are collected. Unfortunately, this is the inevitable consequence of the strongly increasing value that this product waste flow represents.

Transport and recycling costs and total overheads appear to be competitive compared to other European systems. The costs of collecting (sorting), however, would appear to be on the high side, as do those for arranging the reimbursement of retailers. In spite of these relatively high collection costs, the NVMP has nevertheless succeeded in achieving operational costs per ton that are lower than the European average.

Nawoord

ZORGEN VOOR DE TOEKOMST

Na zoveel jaren activiteiten en zoveel – fraaie – jaarverslagen ontstaat gemakkelijk het beeld dat het met de inzameling en recycling van afgedankte apparaten in Nederland wel goed zit. Welnu, deels is dat ook het geval – lezing van dit jaarverslag bevestigt dat nog eens.

Tegelijkertijd is het goed te beseffen dat NVMP bij het opzetten van het huidige systeem van inzameling niet alleen heeft gekozen voor een omslagstelsel van de jaarlijkse kosten, maar ook voor verantwoorde recycling van alle apparaten die daarvoor al op de markt gebracht waren en waarvoor nooit verwijderingsbijdrage is betaald. Toch behoren ook deze apparaten, die ooit op enige dag via de reguliere kanalen in het huidig systeem terecht komen goed te worden verwerkt. Daarom zijn voor deze apparaten in de loop van de afgelopen jaren voorzieningen opgebouwd. Een kwestie van vooruitkijken, of met een aan de jurisprudentie ontleend begrip, van 'goed huisvaderschap'.

Omdat er – in de media, maar ook in de politiek – nogal eens kritische geluiden klinken over de hoogte van deze voorzieningen hebben de betrokken productstichtingen in 2007 een zogeheten bezitsmeting laten uitvoeren. De uitkomsten daarvan waren in zekere zin verhelderend, want er zijn nog grote aantallen apparaten onder de mensen waarvoor geen verwijderingsbijdrage is betaald. Het is duidelijk dat sommige apparaten een zeer lange levensduur kennen, en we mogen er de ogen niet voor sluiten dat we tenminste voor een deel van deze apparaten voorzieningen moeten reserveren.

Gelukkig is deze boodschap inmiddels bij (een deel van) de politieke beslissers geland, wat ertoe geleid heeft dat de verwijderingsbijdrage vooralsnog (tot 2011 respectievelijk 2013) niet wordt afgeschafte. Want de huidige voorzieningen zijn niet toereikend, willen wij kunnen doen wat we beloofd hebben te zullen doen: zorgen voor de toekomst. Laten we ons niet rijk rekenen, zeker

gezien de onzekerheid die de komende wetswijzigingen in Europees verband nog meebrengen. Bovenal geldt dat we de vinger aan de pols moeten houden en onze solvabiliteit en dus een verantwoorde verwerking van alle apparaten te allen tijde moeten waarborgen.




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