

**WEEE2 guidance document:
Large-scale fixed installations (“LSFI”)**



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1 Objective

The European Commission previously published two FAQ documents¹ to interpret the prerequisites of large-scale fixed installations (LSFI). Unfortunately, those interpretations did not remove the possible misunderstandings in this area. Therefore, this document provides guidance and clarification for the interpretation of the exclusion LSFI for the Directive 2012/19/EU (WEEE2).

2 LSFI subject to WEEE2 and WEEE2 definition of LSFI

As examples for LSFI the WEEE2 Recital 9 mentions oil platforms, airport luggage transport systems and elevators.

LSFI are defined in WEEE2 as

“(i) a large-size combination of several types of apparatus and, where applicable, other devices, which: (ii) are assembled, installed and de-installed by professionals; (iii) are intended to be used permanently as part of a building or a structure at a pre-defined and dedicated location; and (iv) can only be replaced by the same specifically designed equipment;”²

The definition of LSFI consists of **four specific prerequisites**. In detail:

- (i) a large-size combination of several types of apparatus and, where applicable, other devices, which;**
- (ii) are assembled, installed and de-installed by professionals;**
- (iii) are intended to be used permanently as part of a building or a structure at a pre-defined and dedicated location; and**
- (iv) can only be replaced by the same specifically designed equipment;**

All four prerequisites **must** be met for the exclusion to apply.

¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/weee/pdf/faq.pdf> concerning Directive 2012/19/EU and http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/rohs_eee/pdf/faq.pdf concerning Directive 2011/65/EU

² Article 3 (1) (c) WEEE2

3 Interpretation of the LSFI prerequisites

The interpretation of the above quoted prerequisites follows the Commission’s FAQs subject to WEEE2 and RoHS2. EWRN provides further interpretation where the Commission’s interpretation does not lead to a clear conclusion. In detail:

Ad (i). “A large-size combination of several types of apparatus and, where applicable, other devices”

The different equipment combined (machines, components, sub-assemblies etc.) within the installation need to be **professional equipment** (b2b-equipment) to benefit from the exclusion as LSFI.³ Therefore, b2c-equipment can never be excluded as LSFI or part of it.

The installation⁴ must be **large-scale**. If the installation exceeds the minimum requirements for one of the following criteria, it can be considered “large-scale”⁵:

- If, when installing or de-installing the installation, it is too large to be moved in an ISO 20 foot container because the total sum of its parts as transported is larger than 5,71m x 2,35m x 2,39m (more than 32,07 m³), it can be considered large-scale.
- The maximum weight of many road trucks is 44 tons. Thus if, when installing or de-installing the installation, it is too heavy to be moved by a 44 ton road truck, because the total sum of its parts as transported weighs more than the truck's load capacity, it can be considered large-scale.
- If heavy-duty cranes are needed for installation or de-installation, the installation can be considered large-scale.
- An installation that does not fit within a normal industrial environment, without the environment needing structural modification, can be considered large-scale. Examples for modifications are modified access areas, strengthened foundations etc.
- If an installation has a rated power greater than 375 kW, it can be considered large-scale.

Ad (ii). “Are assembled, installed and de-installed by professionals”

The combination of the equipment requires to be (a) assembled, (b) installed **and also** (c) de-installed by professionals.

This means that **specialty skilled and trained staff** is necessary (a) **to combine/put together** the various equipment and (b) **integrate it into** a building or a structure at a predefined and dedicated location.

³ FAQ WEEE2 4.2., p. 13 and Appendix Part 2, F, p. 28; RoHS2 FAQ Q3.1, p.9

⁴ Buildings and sites, chemical plants etc. are not installations (see RoHS2 FAQ Q3.1., p. 11)

⁵ WEEE2 FAQ no. 4.2., p. 13 that redirects to RoHS2 FAQ Q3.1., p. 12

Additionally, (c) the **de-installation process**, this means the dismantlement of the LSFI from the building or the structure where it was installed – also requires the same specially skilled and trained staff that assembled and installed it. It is not enough that a demolition company de-installs the LSFI.

Ad (iii). “Are intended to be used permanently as part of a building or a structure at a pre-defined and dedicated location”

The LSFI must be installed **as part of** a building or a structure at a predefined and dedicated location. This requires integration of the equipment into the building or structure.

Intended to be used permanently means that the LSFI will not change location in its entire life. This is the case when it is intended to be used at one single location as part of the building or structure. Although the equipment itself may have some mobility, for example, on rails located within the building / structure.⁶ On the other hand, if the installation is intended to be used on different sites during its life it is not considered as permanent.⁷

Because of the exclusive usage in a professional context⁸ the building or structure might be industrial, commercial, public or offices.

Ad (iv). “Can only be replaced by the same specifically designed equipment”

Only specifically designed equipment can be part of a LSFI. **Specifically designed equipment** means that **it must be tailor made** (unique) for the installation. This is the case, if the equipment is specifically designed, dimensioned and customized, according to the specific needs of the installation.⁹

Standardized, not tailor-made products can be combined in a LSFI but they are not excluded as LSFI or part of another type of equipment that is excluded.¹⁰

⁶ RoHS2 FAQ Q3.1, p. 11

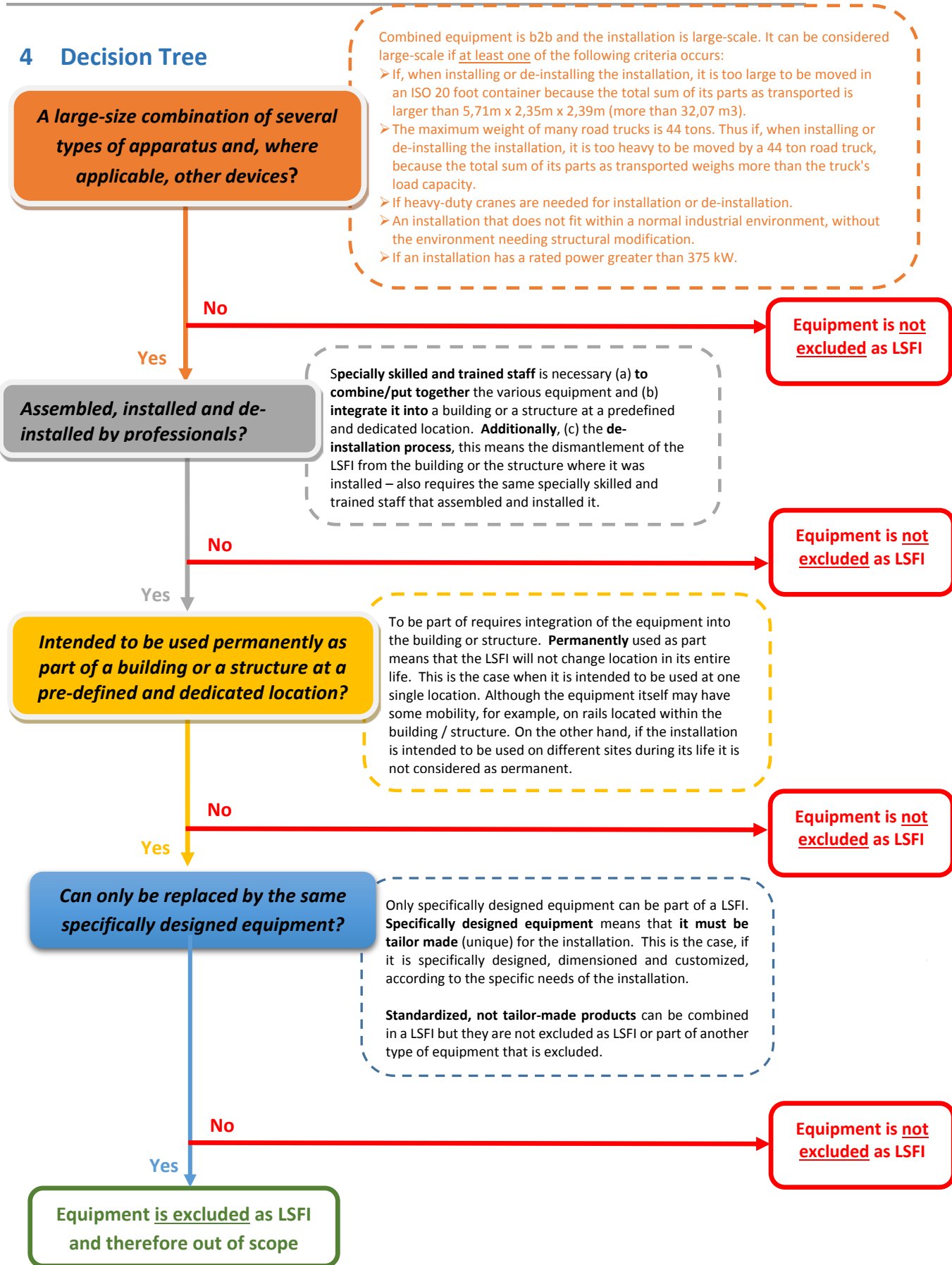
⁷ RoHS2 FAQ Q3.1, p. 11: a LSFI once installed at a given place can be de-installed and installed again at another given place by professionals if the company for example moves from one premises to another.

⁸ WEEE2 FAQ 4.2, p.13 and Appendix Part 2, F, p. 28; RoHS2 FAQ Q3.1, p. 9

⁹ FAQ WEEE2 3.14., p. 10; RoHS2 FAQ Q4.1, p. 13

¹⁰ Recital 9 WEEE2: „However, any equipment which is not specifically designed and installed as part of those installations, and **which can fulfil its function even if it is not part of those installations**, should be included in the scope of this Directive. This refers for instance to equipment such as lighting equipment or photovoltaic panels.”

4 Decision Tree



5 European WEEE Registers Network (EWRN)

EWRN is an independent network of national registers at the heart of the national implementation of Directive 2002/96/EC and the new Directive 2012/19/EU (“WEEE2”) in the respective EU Member States.

Those responsible for managing the national registers are working together at EWRN as experts regarding electrical and electronic equipment (“EEE”) and its proper treatment.

EWRNs primary objectives includes promoting a harmonised approach to registration, reporting and scoping issues across the Member States. This includes harmonised interpretation of the new exclusions under WEEE2.