

Right to repair

The Directive on common rules promoting the repair of goods is on the home straight. Once it has come into force, the member states will have a 24-month period to transpose the regulations into national law, meaning that they are expected to apply from summer 2026. The aim of the Directive is to make the repair of products cheaper, more efficient and therefore more attractive than buying new. The Directive complements the Ecodesign Regulation as part of the Sustainable Product Initiative and promotes the development of a circular economy and the achievement of the Green Deal objectives.

Repair conditions

The repair obligation applies to defective but technically repairable consumer products outside of the statutory warranty period. In addition, the Sale of Goods Directive 2019/771 will be amended to extend the liability period by 12 months in the case of repairs during the warranty period. Producers that offer spare parts and tools required for repairs must do so at reasonable prices.

Repair modalities

The repair obligation currently applies to ten product groups, including washing machines, dishwashers and hoovers. This list is to be extended in the future. If a product falls under the repair obligation, it must be repaired free of charge or at a reasonable price and within a reasonable period of time.

Who is addressed?

The repair obligation is addressed to the producer of a product if the producer is based in the EU. Otherwise, the obligation to repair applies subsidiarily to the authorised representative, importer or distributor in the EU. The repair obligation can also be fulfilled by engaging subcontractors.

Consumer protection

The creation of a European online platform will make it easier for consumers to assert their right to repair by enabling them to search for suitable repairers. The optional European repair form can also be used. If used, however, it is mandatory to provide minimum information, such as the expected price and the duration of the repair.

Outlook

With a view to the reparability of products, producers are also required to only use hardware or software technologies that enable their products to be repaired, which is in line with the requirements of the Ecodesign Regulation. In terms of resources, producers must prepare themselves for the assertion of repair claims to which they have not been exposed so far. On the other hand, this opens up the opportunity to generate follow-up business through suitable service and repair networks.

Next step: Get in touch

We are happy to support you in the implementation of the requirements of the new Directive! Let's Talk Sustainability!

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