

# Responsible Electronics Recycling Act (RERA)

RERA creates a new section of the federal RCRA law that limits exports of:

“Restricted Electronic Waste” being exported to **developing countries**



**FIVE EXCEPTIONS** to export restrictions (these exports are allowed):

- Products containing only **Toxics Below De Minimis Levels** (see the Group 2 hazards below)
- **Reuse – Tested and working equipment**, going into legitimate reuse
- **CRT Glass for Remanufacturing** - Processed and cleaned CRT glass that’s going into a CRT glass manufacturing plant, in countries where that’s a legal import
- **Warranty Repairs** - Products being sent by the manufacturers for warranty repairs
- **Product Recalls** - Products being sent back by the manufacturers because of recalls

1. Covered Electronic Products – Used products including parts and materials derived from these products/parts (such as shredded material)	2. List of toxic materials
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computers.</li> <li>• Central processing units.</li> <li>• Mobile computers (including notebooks, netbooks, tablets, and e-book readers).</li> <li>• Computer accessories (including input devices, webcams, speakers, data storage devices, servers, and monitors).</li> <li>• Televisions (including portable televisions and portable DVD players).</li> <li>• Video display devices (including digital picture frames and portable video devices).</li> <li>• Digital imaging devices (including printers, copiers, facsimile machines, image scanners, and multifunction machines).</li> <li>• Television peripheral devices (including video cassette recorders, DVD players, video game systems, game controllers, signal converter boxes, and cable and satellite receivers).</li> <li>• Digital cameras and projectors.</li> <li>• Digital audio players.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Group 1 hazards:</b> (De minimis levels don’t apply)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CRTs - cathode ray tubes or cathode ray tube glass in any form, or cathode ray tube phosphor residues or dusts in any form;</li> <li>• MERCURY LAMPS: a lamp or other device containing mercury phosphor;</li> <li>• BATTERIES containing—             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ - lead, cadmium, or mercury; or</li> <li>○ - organic solvents which can ignite [This includes lithium ion batteries]</li> </ul> </li> <li>• ANY PART CONTAINING MERCURY</li> <li>• HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM</li> </ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p><b>Group 2 hazards:</b> (If above the de minimis levels for these listed materials)</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telephones and electronic communication equipment (including cellular phones and wireless internet communication devices).</li> <li>• Networking devices (including routers, network cards, modems, and hubs).</li> <li>• Audio equipment.</li> <li>• Portable video game systems.</li> <li>• Personal digital assistants.</li> <li>• Portable global positioning system navigation devices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Items containing <b>antimony, barium, cadmium, lead, thallium, beryllium, arsenic, or selenium</b>, including— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ circuit boards;</li> <li>○ printer drums;</li> <li>○ liquid crystal displays;</li> <li>○ flatscreen glass; and</li> <li>○ light emitting diodes</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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This approach is consistent with the policy most other developed nations have adopted via international treaties – the Basel Convention and Basel Ban Amendment.

**Enforcement:**

The bill creates a licensing process for companies seeking to export covered electronic products. Violation of the bill can result in criminal penalties. Companies violating the law will be posted on a public registry of violators.

**Other Definitions**

**Developing nations:**

Countries which are not members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) or the European Union; or Liechtenstein (which is not a member of either). This definition is consistent with that used in international treaties, such as the Basel Convention

**Critical Minerals and Rare Earth Elements Recycling Research Initiative**

The bill establishes a research initiative to better understand why many of the critical minerals and Rare Earth Elements used in electronics are not being recovered during recycling, and what could help increase their recovery volumes.