

Call for candidate contractors for the depollution and treatment of Cooling and Freezing (CF) equipment (domestic and professional WEEE), from October the 1st, 2028

Recupel vzw/asbl organises and coordinates the implementation of the WEEE take-back obligation in Belgium since 1 July 2001. One of its missions is the depollution and the treatment (including recycling, valorisation and removal) of WEEE in an environmentally friendly and cost-effective way.

Recupel calls for candidates who, on a contractual basis, can depollute and process CF collected by Recupel, and this as from October the 1st, 2028. Applications must be submitted **by the 22nd of October 2026 at the latest**. They are delivered to Recupel:

- Either under closed and sealed envelope and against receipt, at the latest on the aforementioned date,
- Or by registered letter under closed envelope (sent at the latest two working days prior to the aforementioned filing date) (the sealed envelope is put in a double envelope).

On the aforementioned date the application shall be in the possession of Recupel **before 5 PM**.

The application is submitted in the following form: (1) a letter that states the identity of the candidate, signed by the competent person(s), **together with, and only with** (2) a USB-stick holding dated and signed pdf-documents (see under point 5 of the attachment here after). Applications not complying with these conditions, will not be taken into consideration.

This call does not concern the depollution/treatment of other WEEE than CF, nor services related to the finely meshed collection of WEEE, the sorting out at a transfer station or the transportation in bulk.

Procedure:

Recupel will assess the timely submitted applications and select candidates. Tender specifications will be sent to the selected candidates as from the 26rd of October 2026. They must submit their offer by the 21st of January 2027 at the latest.

Further to the assessment of the offers and approval by the competent authorities, Recupel will enter into an agreement with the chosen contractors at the latest on the 18th of June 2027. Such contract will in principle enter into force on the 1st of October 2028. Only in case of unforeseeable circumstances, this schedule can be deviated from.

The contract to be entered into shall have a definite duration of 6 years (until 30th of September 2034), with a possibility for Recupel to extend for 3 years (in that case, until 30th of September 2037).

Recupel is not a public authority and the public procurement legislation is not applicable.

The application can be drafted in Dutch, French or English. It shall include all relevant administrative information on the applicant (company name and commercial name, legal form, nationality, registered seat, company number), as well as the aforementioned attachments.

Where several affiliated undertakings submit applications in response to the same call, they must disclose the nature of their affiliation and describe their relationship with one another. Applications submitted by affiliated undertakings shall only be admissible where they are genuinely autonomous and independent and are not liable to distort competition or the proper functioning of the market. Recupel reserves the right to request from the candidates concerned any information or documents it considers necessary to verify compliance with these conditions. Where

these conditions are not met, or where the information and documents provided do not enable Recupel to carry out a sufficient assessment, Recupel may reject one or more of the applications concerned. Recupel may also make the acceptance of such applications subject to a further assessment during the tender phase.

Description of the assignment:

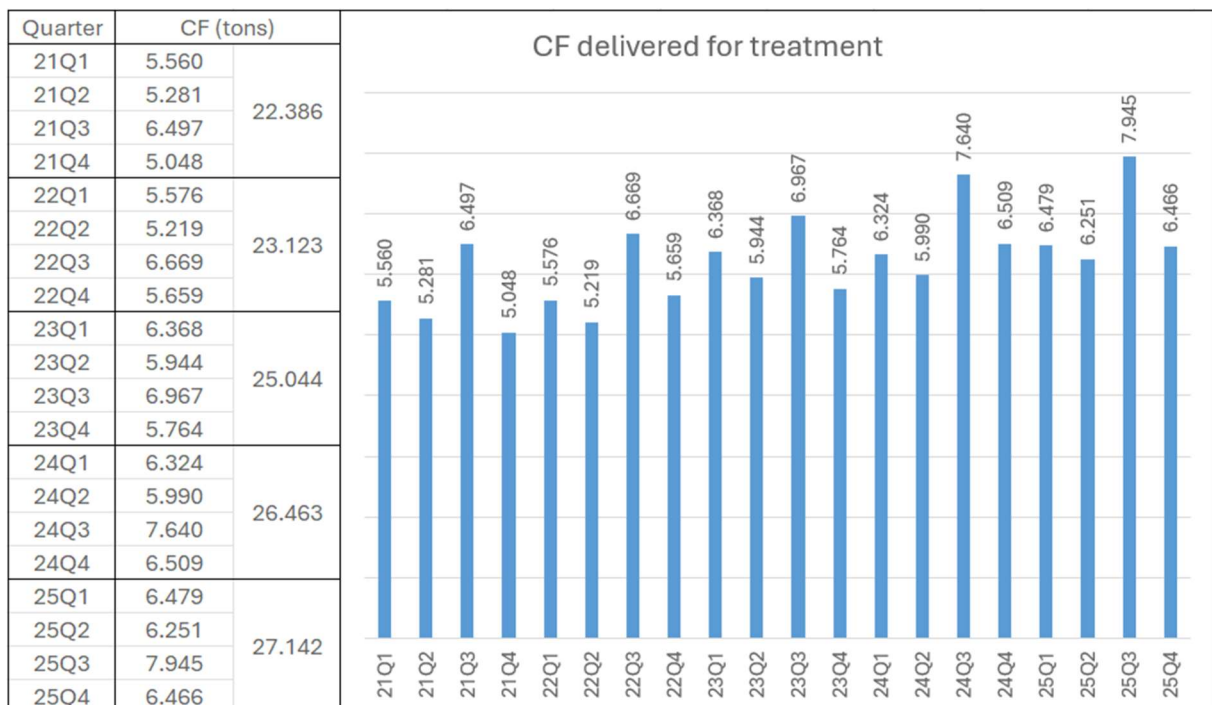
The assignment consists in depolluting and treatment of CF transports in accordance with the specifications and the legal conditions.

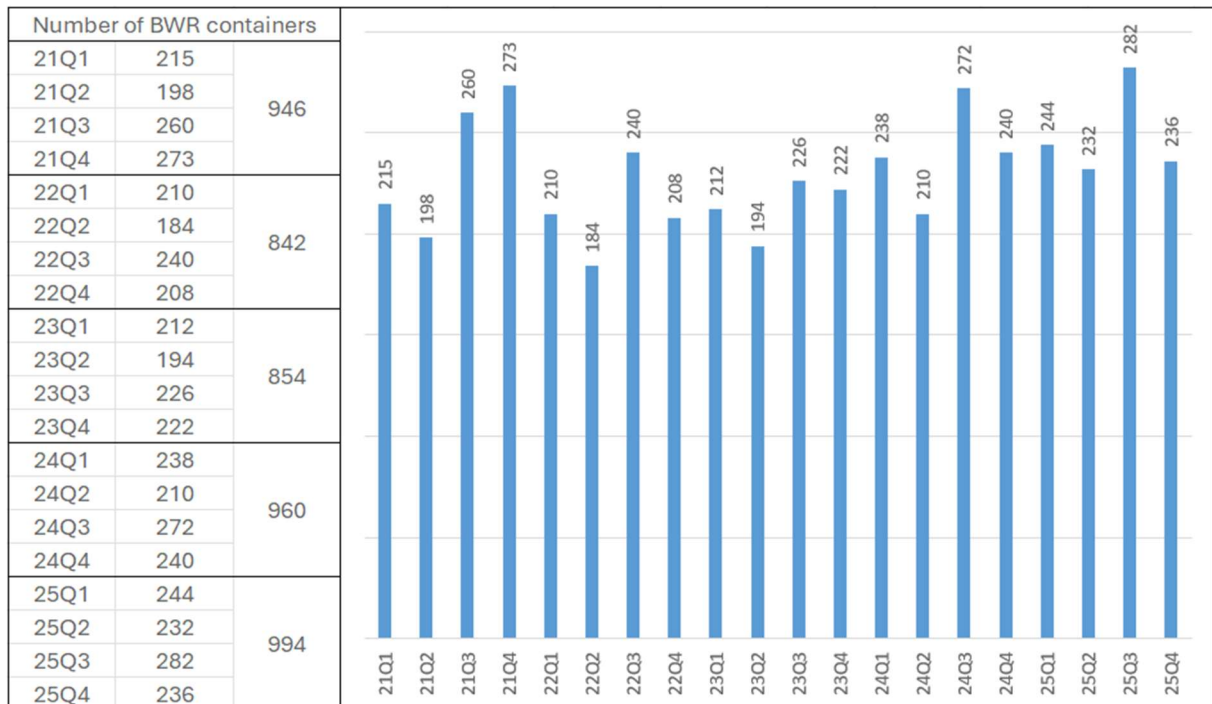
The object of the agreements is related to 50% of the total quantity of WEEE (CF) collected by Recupel to be treated in the contract period. The contracts are awarded to two independent contractors. Each of these candidates can propose a maximum of 2 treatment sites in the offer phase of which only one can be attributed a contract.

The assignment can also include the sorting out of BWR transports (CF and BW exceptionally mixed) and the treatment of the CF equipment obtained as a result of it.

The contract will provide for obligations relating, among other, to registration, digital management of documents, monitoring, reporting, control, communication of information, mass balances, weighing, recycling results, depollution etc. These obligations are stipulated in the tender specifications.

For information purposes only and without any commitment, the tables below include the quantities of WEEE (CF) and BWR processed at the request of Recupel in the five preceding years. Recupel cannot guarantee that these quantities will actually be reached in the upcoming contract period. However, it takes various initiatives in order to consolidate and increase collection.





Please note with regard to the aforementioned quantities that the CF quantities in BWR are already included in the CF quantities mentioned in the table above.

Candidates shall demonstrate that they have the required treatment capacity and, in case of emergency, they can guarantee the use of an alternative treatment site that satisfies the same qualitative requirements in a way that continuity is ensured. Candidates shall demonstrate that they have obtained all legally required permits, authorisations and acknowledgments to perform this assignment.

Minimum treatment requirements and specific depollution conditions will be applicable on the contract implementation.

The normative document Cenelec European Standard EN 50625 applies to the services to be provided. On the 1st of October 2028 the applicant shall be in the possession of the quality certificate in accordance with this standard (or on 1st of April 2029, if the contract stipulates so).

If the applicant appeals to subcontractors for the implementation of the contract, it remains solely liable vis-à-vis Recupel. Third parties called upon by the contractor must comply with all conditions the candidate must itself comply with. All documents and declarations to be attached to the application of the contractor are also required concerning these third parties.

Additional information concerning the assignment and the attachments the application shall include, is available in the attachment.

Brussels, 21st of September 2026

Bruno Vermoesen
Chairman
Recupel vzw

Eric Dewaet
CEO
Recupel vzw

Annex to the Call for candidates of September 2026 concerning depollution and treatment of CF

Preliminary comment: In case of discrepancies between this publication and the tender specifications, the latter will prevail. This attachment is not exhaustive and does not replace the tender specifications.

1 Depollution and disassembly

Depollution consists in removing environmentally hazardous mixtures/components/materials from the supplied WEEE, and mainly in the prior segregation of hazardous components, after which they are processed. This is done in the two following separate steps.

Depollution shall comply with minimum standards in order to prevent adverse environmental impacts and shall, as a minimum, meet the provisions of the regional legislation applicable at the place where the WEEE is collected and treated, as well as those of European Standard EN 50625 (including the specific provisions applicable to temperature exchange equipment). Without prejudice to the conditions set out below (Steps 1 and 2), the best available techniques for depollution must be used, provided that they ensure the protection of human health and a high level of environmental protection. Dismantling must likewise be carried out in an environmentally sound manner. Certain waste streams are not normally applicable to the depollution of WEEE (cooling and freezing equipment).

Step 1: All liquids and the following substances, preparations, mixtures and components shall be selectively dismantled and collected for recycling and removal, in the separate simple flows determined below. When assessing whether a component belongs, or not, to one of the flows mentioned below, the principle of precaution shall be complied with: in the event of uncertainty, the component is to be considered as hazardous (maximum care and minimal burden for the environment).

1. Capacitors;
2. Other PCB/PCT containing components;
3. Asbestos-containing components;
4. Components containing flame resistant ceramic fibres;
5. LCD lamps ("back lights") (with a size of more than 100 cm²) containing mercury;
6. Gas discharge lamps and other components containing mercury, such as switches, contact thermometers and relays;
7. All batteries, except for batteries that are permanently connected with equipment
8. All toner cartridges and ink-containing receptacles (whether or not empty, dry paste or liquid ink) and ink ribbons;
9. Cathode ray tubes;
10. Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs and HCFCs) or fluorocarbons (HFCs), or other hydrocarbons (HCs, etc.);
11. All appliances containing radioactive materials;
12. High value circuit boards if the size of the circuit board is bigger than 10 cm²;
13. External electric cables.

Step 2: The following substances, preparations and components must be selectively disassembled in the following treatment steps and collected for recycling or removal as an identifiable flow or an identifiable part of a flow.

1. Other batteries than those mentioned under step 1;
2. All other printed circuit boards, meaning other than high value circuit boards;
3. Plastics containing bromide fire retardants;
4. Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs and HCFCs) or fluorocarbons (HFCs), or other hydrocarbons (HCs, isobutene, etc.);

The result of an identifiable flow or a part of an identifiable flow shall be demonstrated through a batch sample. If this result cannot be demonstrated in a non-ambiguous way, Step 1 shall be followed. The specifications contain conditions concerning the monitoring of the depollution quality.

2 Treatment, recycling and recovery

The contracts will go into effect on October the 1st 2028. At that date, the contractor needs to be fully operational without exception. This entails among others that the contractor has sufficient treatment capacity, necessary permissions, the EN 50625 certificate and, in general terms, will unconditionally fulfil the obligations of the specifications published by Recupel.

Mandatory minimum results

CF Treatment result	Recycling	Valorisation
Legal minimum	80%	85%
Result 2025	82,6%	98,1%

Components fractions (legal minimum)	Recycling	Valorisation
Ferrous material	95%	
Non-ferrous material	95%	
Plastics	50%	80%

The treatment operator agrees to prioritise the supply of **polyurethane foam (PUR)** from insulation material for high-quality material recycling, with the aim of maximising the closing of material loops. The treatment operator must describe in its offer the proposed approach and the measures it will take to achieve this objective. Recupel attaches particular importance to the development and implementation of high-quality PUR recycling. The implementation of the approach described in the offer, as well as the efforts made in this regard, will be evaluated as part of the contractual monitoring process.

3 Technical regulations applying to the sites for delivery, storage and treatment

CF transports are delivered to the treatment operator in closed containers. The treatment site is preferably located (i) in Belgium and (ii) in a place where it fits well in the logistics chain of WEEE (CF) collection and transport. The addresses and collected volumes in 2025 are made available to the selected candidate treatment operators for their information.

The delivered CF-appliances are kept dry and stored in a way that the cooling system cannot be damaged, on an impermeable surface with provision for collecting leaking oil and if necessary settling tanks, oil separators and waste separators, and equipped with a weather-resistant cover.

Dismantled or separated waste substances and parts, whether dangerous or not, are stored per type of waste type in adequate monthly receptacles that guarantee safety and environmental protection.

The treatment site has weighing equipment to assess the weight of the treated waste, an impermeable surface and waterproof covering with provision for collecting leaking oil and, if necessary, settling tanks, oil separators and waste separators, suitable receptacles for the storage of batteries, condensers containing PBCs / PCTs and other dangerous waste and a weather-resistant cover. All legal and regulatory conditions as well as those stipulated by the applicable permits must be complied with.

4 Technology

In general, the treatment operator aims to achieve an optimal valorisation and the reduction of ecological impact of the entire treatment process for each of the material flows.

Depollution, treatment and recycling activities shall satisfy the conditions set forth in Appendix VII of the EU Directive 2012/19/EU of 4 July 2012, as well as minimum standards regarding the prevention of negative effects on environment. Without prejudice to the applicable conditions (steps 1 and 2 above) the best available techniques shall be used, insofar as they guarantee the protection of human health and provide a high level of environmental protection.

5 Documents and statements to be provided by the candidates

The documents listed here under must be attached to the application. The numbering stipulated must be strictly complied with. Failing that, Recupel is entitled to consider the application as irregular and not to accept it.

These documents are part of the pdf-documents on the aforementioned USB-stick. The digital files are named as follows:

[*name candidate*]XX.pdf – whereby XX represents the number indicated below (e.g. Name01.pdf)

1. The annual accounts of the candidate for the last two accounting years.
2. A statement by the candidate that it is not in a state of bankruptcy, liquidation or composition and that it has not filed a bankruptcy declaration, and that it is not subject to a procedure stipulated by the Companies Continuity Act.

3. A document that proves that the candidate is sufficiently insured against the risks associated with the activities it applies for, including an insurance for the destruction or loss by fire of the receptacles made available by Recupel. In case of a newly built installation: enumeration of insurances that will be contracted.
4. A document that proves that the candidate complies with its payment obligations to the social security.
5. A copy of the legally required permits, authorisations, acknowledgments, etc. to perform the activities applied for or evidence that these have been requested for. In case of a newly built installation: enumeration of the permits to be obtained and time line within which they can be obtained.
6. A statement of the candidate that it accepts an audit of maximum 2 days to be performed at its own expense by independent experts. The purpose of such audit is to inform Recupel on the technical and/or financial/economical capacity of the candidate. In case of a newly built installation : the above applies to a referral visit of an existing site. If the candidate wants to appeal to subcontractors, he shall demonstrate that these also accept such audit. This also applies to customers (of materials flows) which have a significant impact on the compliance with the treatment results.
7. EN 50625 certificate, or documents that evidence that this certificate will be obtained by the candidate by the 1st of October 2028 (or, if the contracts stipulates so, by the 1st of April 2029) at the latest.
8. A description of the nature and the scope of the relevant activities of the candidate during the last three years.
9. A list of the available treatment capacity of the candidate on the 1st of October 2028 for each of the phases of the process that the candidate intends to use, including (a) an indication of the bottlenecks and (b) a description of the operational means the candidate has and will have available for the implementation of the assignment.
10. A list of the measures and investments that the candidate has to undertake in order to be fully operational on the 1st of October 2028.
11. Where one or more enterprises affiliated with the candidate also submit an application in response to this call: a declaration setting out the relationship between those undertakings. Upon first request by Recupel, the candidate shall provide all additional information and documents required to assess the autonomous and independent nature of the applications concerned, including, inter alia, the shareholding structure, annual accounts, composition of the governing body, articles of association and, where applicable, relevant foreign corporate documents.