Rhode Island’s General Law 23-90

The Law & Program Rhode Island law required the mattress industry to create and manage a statewide mattress recycling program. The Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) is the nonprofit organization created by the mattress industry to administer this program. This program, known as Bye Bye Mattress, is funded through a $16.00 recycling fee collected on all purchases of new, used and renovated mattresses and box springs.

Requirements

Retailer
If you sell or offer for sale products in Rhode Island that fit the law’s definition of mattress, or box spring, you must:
• Register your company with MRC at MRCreporting.org.
• Report monthly mattress sales.
• Collect the recycling fee on each sale and remit the fee to MRC monthly.

Producers and Importers
If you manufacture or import products that fit the law’s definition of mattress or box spring to end users in Rhode Island, you must:
• Register your company with MRC at MRCreporting.org.
• If you also sell directly to consumers, you must register as a “producer” and as a “retailer.”
*The fee does not apply to wholesale sales to retailers. Retailers will collect the fee when they sell to the end user. The fee must only be collected from the end user.

Fee Collection
A $16.00 fee applies to each mattress and box spring sold directly to Rhode Island consumers or contract purchasers (hotels, hospitals, universities, etc.). The fee is:
• A flat rate regardless of mattress size or type.
• Charged per unit. Each mattress and each box spring is considered a separate unit.
• Listed on the invoice or sales receipt as “Recycle Fee” followed by the amount.
• Subject to sales tax.

Sales Reporting and Fee Remittance

Retailer
• Report monthly sales within 30 days of the previous month.
• Remit the collected recycling fees.

Producer and Importers with a Retailer Registration
• Report monthly sales within 30 days of the previous month, is selling to an end user.
• Remit the collected recycling fees.

Registration, reporting and fee remittance is easy and free of charge on MRCreporting.org. Guidelines and step-by-step videos that explain each of these processes are available in the resources area.

Links

Definitions: https://www.mrcreporting.org/Pages/Definitions.aspx

FAQs: https://www.mrcreporting.org/Pages/FAQ.aspx

Included and Excluded Products: https://www.mrcreporting.org/Pages/InclExclProducts.aspx

Rhode Island’s Program: https://mattressrecyclingcouncil.org/programs/rhodeisland/