

ARTI-Italia Toner Inkjet Remanufacturers Association - Italy

Press release on the occasion of the 2012 Big Buyer

October 2012 in Milan: the Italian representatives of some of Europe's largest cartridge remanufacturers have decided to establish a non-profit organization called ARTI-Italia. ARMOR, EMBATEX, KATUN and KMP - the founding members, all members of ETIRA (European Toner Inkjet Remanufacturer's Association), have taken the social cause and ethics code established by the European Association as its inspiration. The members of ARTI-Italia will put a great effort into spreading the culture of remanufactured products in Italy and in the aggregation of other entities in the same industry that share the same principles.

Ecodesign and the aspects that make it less complicated to reuse waste products at the end of their life cycle has been the topic of discussion in Europe for quite some time. However, the re-use of cartridges in Italy encounters many other problems due to the strict legislation of used cartridges, which does not facilitate their collection and subsequent re-use for remanufacturing. Not only that, the presence of clones, compatible cartridges made from plastics that infringe on existing patents, has increased sharply: these are illegal and counterfeit products mostly coming from the Far East that violate vendor (OEM) patents. OEMs in fact are the only legal cartridge manufacturers. "Compatible" is a term which confuses the user when deciding whether to buy a properly remanufactured cartridge or a compatible / cloned or illegally copied product. In addition, the clone, due to its intellectual property infringements, cannot be reused / remanufactured in a legal way. It then ends up in a landfill resulting in serious damage to the ecological balance and the environment.

ETIRA prepared a document, The Clone Guide, (now available on www.etira.org which we have translated to Italian) which we want to share so that some light can be shed on the subject and in order to provide useful information for public and private users. Arti-Italia members will distribute copies of this guide during the Big Buyer event, providing information so that more distributors, resellers and users are up to date on this important issue.

Among the objectives of our Association, one is collaborating with public institutions such as the Provincial Administrations that manage waste legislation, Regional Agencies for Environment, the Ministry of Economy and Finance, which at this stage of the spending review, through CONSIP, is re-evaluating remanufactured cartridges and lastly the Ministry of the Environment who is developing a guidance document for the Remanufactured Cartridges industry. The comparison with these bodies and participation in the round tables where we discuss GPP, Agenda 21, Green Procurement Policy and Environmental allows us to propose sustainable projects and to bring the experience of European companies into improving the situation of the domestic Italian market. We believe, despite being competitors, that our businesses and the environment will improve if we do our job in a fair and transparent way, and if we find serious and concrete proposals for the growth of the entire sector, both in terms of volume and benefiting a sustainable environmental. Companies associated with ARTI-Italia, for which thousands of people work, in Italy as in Europe, have gained in-depth and specific knowledge and are able to deal with the increasingly complex technological problems of the new printers in the market thanks to investments in Research, Development and Innovation. Standards and certifications acquired ranging from ISO to DIN environmental labels (Nordic Swan Ecolabel or Blau Angel, NF Environment, LGA and EMAS) represent the "state of the art" in the field of regeneration of printing consumables. UKCRA and FCR are actually similar to ARTI-Italia respectively in the UK and France and pursue common goals close to our own. With all of these subjects and others already in Italy, we hope to build a serious and fruitful discussion for a healthier and more sustainable market.

The President

Giovanni Ravelli