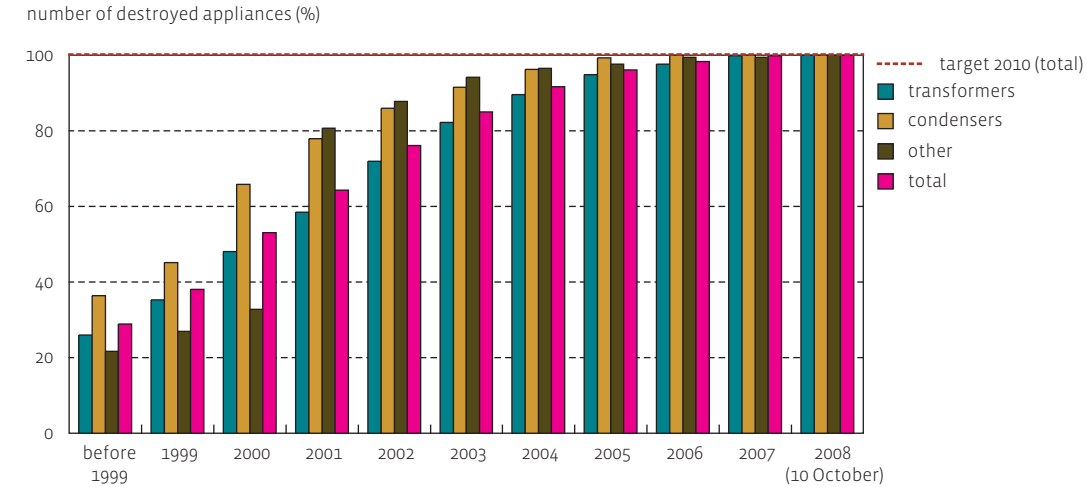
☺ Quantity of destroyed PCB-containing appliances

DPSIR



Source: OVAM

Why destroy PCB-containing appliances?

PCB (polychlorobiphenyls) have a number of physical properties that are particularly interesting for industrial applications (including excellent thermal stability, low solubility in water and good conductivity). Because of these properties they were used frequently in the past, especially in transformers and condensers. But, PCB that are emitted into the atmosphere are difficult to break down and accumulate in the food chain and can cause major health damage. For this reason, the government developed a policy aimed at the complete destruction of all PCB-containing appliances.

2010 target now reached already

The figure shows the percentage of destroyed appliances compared to the known quantity and reflects the situation at the end of each year indicated. At the end of 2008, all known appliances (19 262) had been destroyed, as a result of which the target for 2010 has already been reached.

In principle, there will therefore be no new PCB contamination added in the environment. But, because PCB break down with such difficulty the historical pollution of (watercourse) sediment and biota (e.g. eel) will remain a problem for many years.

number of destroyed appliances (%)	for 1999	2000	2002	2004	2006	2007	2008
transformers	26.0	48.0	71.9	89.6	97.7	99.8	100
condensers	36.4	65.8	86.0	96.3	100	100	100
other	21.6	32.7	87.7	96.5	99.4	99.4	100
total	*28.9*	*53.0*	*76.1*	*91.6*	*98.4*	*99.9*	*100*
target 2010 (total)	*100*	*100*	*100*	*100*	*100*	*100*	*100*