

**UPDATE on  
Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directive  
30 June 2006**

- 1. New UK RoHS Regulations and Guidance Published**
- 2. Exemptions**
- 3. EU RoHS Informal Enforcement Authorities Network**
- 4. RoHS Enforcement Guidance Published**
- 5. TAC Meeting held on 26 June 2006**

## **1. New UK RoHS Regulations and Guidance Published**

The UK RoHS Regulations have been updated to include exemptions agreed since they were first laid in October 2005. The new Regulations (*Statutory Instrument 2006 No. 1463*) replace and revoke SI 2005 No. 2478. They were laid before Parliament on 6 June and come into force tomorrow on **1 July 2006**.

The DTI's Government Guidance Notes have also been reissued (June 2006) to take account of the new Regulations.

Copies of both these documents can be downloaded from the 'Links' section of the <http://www.rohs.gov.uk/>

## **2. Exemptions**

All exemptions agreed to date can be found in the Annex to the original Directive, plus three separate Commission Decisions amending the Directive, dated 15 October 2005, 21 October 2005 and 21 April 2006. The new UK Regulations reflect this position.

A further six exemptions were put to the WEEE/RoHS TAC (Technical Adaptation Committee) members for vote under the written procedures earlier this month. The Commission announced (at the meeting held on 26 June), that these had been adopted through a qualified majority. These six are: -

*Lead and cadmium in printing inks for the application of enamels on borosilicate glass.*

*Lead in finishes of fine pitch components other than connectors with a pitch of 0.65 mm or less with NiFe lead frames and lead in finishes of fine pitch components other than connectors with a pitch of 0.65 mm or less with copper lead-frames.*

*Lead in solders for the soldering to machined through hole discoidal and planar array ceramic multilayer capacitors.*

*Lead oxide in plasma display panels (PDP) and surface conduction electron emitter displays (SED) used in structural elements; notably in the front and rear glass dielectric layer, the bus electrode, the black stripe, the address electrode, the barrier ribs, the seal frit and frit ring as well as in print pastes.*

*Lead oxide in the glass envelope of Black Light Blue (BLB) lamps.*

*Lead alloys as solder for transducers used in high-powered (designated to operate for several hours at acoustic power levels of 125 dB SPL and above) loudspeakers.*

Another two Commission Decisions covering an additional two exemptions were voted for at the 26 June meeting and these were also adopted under the qualified majority system: -

*Hexavalent chromium in corrosive preventive coatings of unpainted metal sheetings and fasteners used for corrosion protection and Electromagnetic Interference Shielding in equipment falling under category three of Directive 2002/96/EC (IT and telecommunications equipment). Exemption granted until 1 July 2007.*

*Lead bound in crystal glass as defined in Annex I (Categories 1, 2, 3 and 4) of Council Directive 69/493/EEC.*

Where exemptions are agreed by the TAC, the UK enforcement body (NWML) will respect these from the time they are agreed, in advance of the formal publication of the Commission Decisions in the Official Journal of the European Union. The UK Regulations will be amended in due course.

### **3. EU RoHS Informal Enforcement Authorities Network**

The UK has help establish an informal network of Member States' enforcement authorities with the aim of encouraging and facilitating a common European approach to RoHS enforcement. This has now met on three separate occasions (27 January 2006 in London; 25 April in Brussels and 15 June in Copenhagen). The UK & Danish enforcement bodies have taken on the Secretariat of this group for an initial period of 3 years.

### **4. RoHS Enforcement Guidance Published**

The first visible output of the RoHS Enforcement Authorities Informal Network comes with the publication of a document outlining general principles for RoHS enforcement across the EU. This advisory document aims to ensure a common European approach to enforcement, and has received wide support from all other Member States.

Again copies of this document can be downloaded from the 'Links' section of the <http://www.rohs.gov.uk/>

### **5. TAC meeting held on 26 June 2006**

As usual, an unofficial note of this meeting has been written and will be made available on the DTI website very shortly - <http://www.dti.gov.uk/innovation/sustainability>.