



RoHS

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RoHS
COMPLIANT

Restriction of Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment (RoHS) is a piece of legislation enacted by the European Union and implemented on July 21, 2011.

OVERVIEW: The amount of waste generated by electrical and electronic equipment every year in the EU is increasing rapidly and is now one of the fastest growing sources of waste. Electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) contains hazardous substances. To address this rising challenge, EU laws restrict the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment through the RoHS Directive. In parallel, the Waste Electrical and Electronic (WEEE) Directive promotes the collection and recycling of such equipment.

OBJECTIVES: The RoHS Directive aims to prevent the risks posed to human health and the environment related to the management of electronic and electrical waste. It does this by restricting the use of certain hazardous substance that can be substituted by safer alternatives. These restricted substances include heavy metals, flame retardants or plasticizers. The Directive promotes the recyclability of materials used in EEE and its components. The Directive is intended to ensure a level playing field for manufacturers and importers in the EU market.

STATUS: The RoHS Directive currently restricts the use of 10 substances: lead, cadmium, mercury, hexavalent chromium, PBB, PBDE, DEHP, BBP, DP and DIBP. All products with an electrical and electronic component, unless specifically excluded, must comply with these restrictions.

The Directive allows for exemptions from its restrictions, under certain conditions. The exemptions are limited in time and reassessed on a regular basis, considering:

- The availability, practicability, and reliability of substitutes
- The environmental, health and consumer safety impacts of substitution
- The socioeconomic impact of substitution
- Any potential adverse impacts on innovation

The industry regularly applies for the renewal of exemptions or for additional applications to be exempted. Each request will be evaluated and granted when appropriate.