



## RoHS REGULATIONS

Government Guidance Notes

November 2005

## **Government Guidance Notes**

**SI 2005 No. 2748**

**This Guide is intended to assist those placing electrical and electronic equipment on the UK market to understand the application of The Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2005 (referred to hereafter as “The RoHS Regulations”). It aims to explain the Regulations as interpreted by the DTI.**

**The Regulations themselves should always be read and understood, as they constitute the law. This Guide is informative, but has no legal authority.**

**You should refer to the Regulations themselves for a full statement of the legal requirements and in the case of any doubt take independent advice, including your own legal advice. The Regulations may be revised from time to time, so users should take care to keep themselves informed. In this regard, information may be obtained from the DTI’s Sustainable Development Directorate. Details of contacts for further information are given on page 12.**

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## RoHS - the law in brief

1. The Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2005 ("the RoHS Regulations") implement the provisions of the European Parliament and Council Directive on the Restrictions of the use of certain Hazardous Substances in electrical and electronic equipment (2002/95/EC) ("the RoHS Directive").
2. The RoHS Regulations ban the putting on the EU market of new Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) containing more than the permitted levels of lead, cadmium, mercury, hexavalent chromium and both polybrominated biphenyl (PBB) and polybrominated diphenyl ether (PBDE) flame retardants from 1 July 2006. There are a number of exempted applications for these substances.
3. Manufacturers will need to ensure that their products - and the components and subassemblies of such products - comply with the requirements of the Regulations by the relevant date in order to be put on the Single Market. The Regulations will also have an impact on those who import EEE into the European Union on a professional basis, those who export to other Member States and those who rebrand other manufacturers' EEE as their own.
4. These Regulations do not affect the application of existing legal requirements for EEE, including those regarding safety, the protection of health, existing transport requirements or provisions on hazardous waste. In other words, existing legislation on EEE and hazardous substances must also be complied with.

### Entry into force

5. The Regulations become enforceable on **1 July 2006**.

### Requirements

6. The main requirement of the RoHS Regulations is that from 1 July 2006 a producer (as defined in the Regulations) may not put new EEE containing lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, polybrominated biphenyls (PBB) and polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE), in amounts exceeding the established maximum concentration values, on the market in the EU. Certain applications (listed in Annex C) are exempt and there is also an exemption for spare parts for the repair of equipment put on the market before 1 July 2006. The Regulations also do not apply to the re-use of equipment that was put on the market before the same date.
7. Producers must be able to demonstrate compliance by submitting technical documentation or other information to the enforcement authority on request and retain such documentation for a period of four years after the EEE is placed on the market.

### Enforcement

8. Responsibility for the enforcement of the RoHS Regulations will lay with the Secretary of State for Trade & Industry, who has appointed the National Weights and Measures Laboratory (NWML), an executive agency of the Department of Trade and Industry, to act on his behalf.

# RoHS Regulations

## Scope

9. The RoHS Regulations apply to all EEE containing hazardous substances put on the European Union Single Market on or after 1 July 2006, which falls into any of the eight broad categories listed in Annex A. Annex A also includes indicative (but not exhaustive) examples of products under each of the categories. The Regulations specify a voltage range within which the products in the eight categories must fall in order to come within the scope. This is up to and including 1,000 volts AC or up to and including 1,500 volts DC.

10. The eight broad categories mentioned above reflect eight of the ten categories in Annex 1 of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive, (2002/96/EC). In addition, the RoHS Regulations apply both to electric light bulbs and to household luminaires.

11. The two categories of the WEEE Directive **not** included within the scope of the RoHS Regulations are Medical Devices and Monitoring & Control Instruments. Please note, however, that Article 6 of the RoHS Directive places an obligation on the European Commission to present proposals for including EEE falling within those two categories within the scope of the RoHS Directive, once scientific and technical evidence has demonstrated that such proposals are feasible. In this respect, the Commission has asked independent consultants to undertake a study to review the current position. The results of that study should be available in mid-2006.

## Assessing products to see if they are included in the scope

12. For many products, the decision on whether they are included within the scope of these Regulations should be reasonably straightforward. However there are a number of products (particularly in specialised or industrial sectors), where there may be significant areas of doubt and uncertainty.

13. An example of a 'decision tree' that could be used by producers to help determine whether their products might come within the scope of the RoHS Regulations can be found at Annex B, but it may be necessary to seek independent advice to come to a final decision.

## General guidance on the types of products that may be outside the scope of the Regulations

14. Given that the scope of the RoHS Directive is drawn from that of the WEEE Directive it is the Department's view that certain provisions in the WEEE Directive may apply to EEE within the RoHS Directive so as to limit its scope. There is, however, no express provision in the RoHS Directive to this effect.

15. The guidance that follows uses some of the criteria for assessing "grey area" products (those whose inclusion within the scope of the RoHS Directive is in doubt) that have been discussed in the Technical Adaptation Committee (TAC) of Member States and is reflected in the Commission's non-legally binding Frequently Asked

Questions document on the WEEE and RoHS Directives<sup>1</sup>. It should be noted that this guidance represents the Department's view and, as with all EC Directives, a definitive view may only be obtained through the courts. Producers must rely on their own legal advice on all questions of scope.

i. *EEE intended to protect national security and/or for military purposes*

On the basis that there is an express exemption from the categories of Annex 1A of the WEEE Directive in relation to EEE intended specifically to protect national security and/or for military purposes, it is the view of the Department and the Commission that equipment connected with the protection of the essential security interests of Member States and to arms, munitions and war material may, accordingly, be considered to be exempt from the provisions of the RoHS Directive. It should be noted, however, that this exemption would not apply to any equipment that is used to protect national security and/or has a military purpose, but is not designed exclusively for these purposes.

ii. *Products where electricity is not the main power source*

Many products contain electrical and electronic components, either for additional functionality or as peripheral parts. A simple example could be a combustion engine with an electronic ignition. The definition of EEE in the Regulations extends only to those products that are dependent on electric currents or electromagnetic fields to work properly, meaning that it is the primary power source. When the electric current is switched off, the product cannot fulfil its main function. If electricity is used only for control or support functions, the product could be considered to be outside the scope of these Regulations. In the above example the combustion engine would be considered to be outside that scope.

iii. *Products where the electrical or electronic components are not needed to fulfil the primary function*

This is related to, but not always the same as the above situation. Some products, particularly toys and novelty items contain an electrical or electronic element that gives added value to the product. Often there are similar products on the market fulfilling the same function, but without these components. Examples might include musical greetings cards or soft toys with electronic components, which still fulfil their primary function without their electronic components and could be considered to be outside the scope of the Directive.

iv. *Electrical and electronic equipment that is part of another type of equipment*

The WEEE Directive excludes EEE that is part of another type of equipment that does not fall within the scope of the Directive. On the basis that EEE under RoHS is defined in identical terms, it is the view of the Department and the Commission's Legal Services that such an exclusion extends to EEE under the RoHS Directive and, consequently, to the RoHS Regulations. Examples of such equipment would be lighting or entertainment equipment for use in vehicles, trains or aircraft. This type of equipment would be excluded as it is designed to be part of a product that falls outside the scope of the Directive.

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<sup>1</sup> European Commission's *Frequently Asked Questions on the RoHS and WEEE Directives* published May 2005. This can be downloaded from [http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/waste/pdf/faq\\_weee.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/waste/pdf/faq_weee.pdf)

Equipment that is part of another type of equipment or system is considered to be outside the scope of the Directive where it does not have a direct function outside the other item of equipment or system and that other item of equipment or system is itself outside the scope of the Directive.

Equipment may also be part of a fixed installation. A “fixed installation” may be a combination of several pieces of equipment, systems, products and/or components (or parts) assembled and/or erected by a professional assembler or installer at a given place to operate together in an expected environment and to perform a specific task, but not intended to be placed on the market as a single functional or commercial unit.

In such a case, the elements of a system that are not discernible EEE products in their own right or that do not have a direct function away from the installation are excluded from the scope of the Regulations.

#### v. *Batteries*

The RoHS Directive restricts the use of the named hazardous substances in new electrical and electronic equipment, but in the view of the European Commission does not apply to batteries. This includes batteries that are permanently fixed into the product, as well as disposable batteries. Under the treatment requirements of the WEEE Regulations, batteries must be removed from any separately collected waste electrical and electronic equipment. A new European Commission proposal (published on 21 November 2003) may introduce further requirements on battery manufacturers. The draft Directive on Batteries and Accumulators & Waste Batteries and Accumulators is currently being negotiated, with an expectation that it will be adopted in 2006 and come into effect in 2008.

### **Exemptions**

16. The RoHS Regulations do not apply: -

- To large-scale stationary industrial tools. (This is a machine or system, consisting of a combination of equipment, systems, products and/or components, each of which is designed, manufactured and intended to be used only in fixed industrial applications.)
- To spare parts for the repair of EEE placed on the market before 1 July 2006. It should be noted that, following discussions in the TAC, the European Commission and Member States have agreed that this exemption extends to parts that expand the capacity of and/or upgrade EEE placed on the market before that date provided the EEE concerned is not put on the market as a new product.
- To the reuse of EEE placed on the EU market before 1 July 2006.
- To the specific applications of lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, PBB and PBDE set out in Schedule 2 of the Regulations. These are explained in more detail in Annex C of this Guidance Note.

### **Possible future exemptions**

17. The European Commission has reviewed the status of Deca BDE in polymeric applications and the use of lead in lead-bronze bearing shells and bushes. A

Commission Decision extending the list of exemptions in the Annex of the RoHS Directive to include these applications was adopted on 13 October 2005<sup>2</sup>.

18. The Commission has also reviewed the status or extent of three of the exemptions in the original text of the Annex, of five other new cases for further exemptions and one clarification of one of the existing exemptions. This review was completed (and a report published) in December 2004 and a Commission Decision both amending and extending the list of exemptions in the Annex was adopted on 21 October 2005<sup>3</sup>.

19. Schedule 2 of the Regulations will be amended in due course to reflect these two Commission Decisions, but Annex C of these Guidance Notes reflects these changes in those parts that are highlighted in grey.

20. The European Commission is continuing to receive and review further cases for exemptions and it is likely that some of these will be included within proposals for new Commission Decisions in 2006.

### Definitions

21. The definitions of “electrical and electronic equipment” and “hazardous substances” can be found within the RoHS Regulations.

22. The definition of “**producer**” can also be found within the RoHS Regulations, but it should be noted that whoever exclusively provides financing under or pursuant to any finance agreement shall not be deemed to be a producer unless he also acts as a producer within the meaning of sub points (i) to (iii) of that definition.

23. “**Put on the market**” is not defined in the Regulations or in the Directive, but it is being interpreted in the same way as the term ‘placing on the market’, which is defined in the European Commission’s “*Guide to the implementation of directives based on the New Approach and the Global Approach*”<sup>4</sup> (commonly referred to as the “Blue Book”). This says that ‘placing on the market’ is the initial action of making a product available for the first time on the Community market, with a view to distribution or use in the Community.

24. A product is placed on the Community market when it is made available for the first time. This is considered to take place when a product is transferred from the stage of manufacture with the intention of distribution or use on the Community market. Thus, imports for own use are also considered as being placed on the market at the moment they enter the Community. Moreover, the concept of placing on the market refers to each individual product, not to a type of product, and whether it was manufactured as an individual unit or in a series.

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<sup>2</sup> Commission Decision 2005/717/EC of 13 October 2005, (OJ No. L271, 15.10.2005, p.48)

<sup>3</sup> Commission Decision 2005/747/EC of 21 October 2005, (OJ No. L280, 25.10.2005, p.18)

<sup>4</sup> The *Guide to the implementation of directives based on the New Approach and the Global Approach* can be downloaded from <http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/newapproach/legislation/guide/legislation.htm>



25. The transfer of the product takes place either from the manufacturer, or the manufacturer's authorised representative in the Community, to the importer established in the Community or to the person responsible for distributing the product on the Community market. The distribution chain can also be the commercial chain of the manufacturer or the authorised representative. The transfer may also take place directly from the manufacturer, or authorized representative in the Community, to the final consumer or user.

26. The product is considered to be transferred either when the physical hand-over or the transfer of ownership has taken place. This transfer can be for payment or free of charge, and it can be based on any type of legal instrument. Thus, a transfer of a product is considered to have taken place, for instance, in the circumstances of sale, loan, hire, leasing and gift.

### Maximum Concentration Values

27. For the purposes of the RoHS Regulations, a maximum concentration value of up to 0.1% by weight in homogeneous materials for lead, mercury, hexavalent chromium, PBB and PBDE and of up to 0.01% by weight in homogenous materials for cadmium will be permitted in the manufacture of new EEE. These values were established through the adoption of a Commission Decision on 18 August 2005<sup>5</sup>

28. '**Homogeneous material**' means a material that cannot be mechanically disjointed into different materials.

29. The term '**homogeneous**' is understood as "of uniform composition throughout", so examples of "homogeneous materials" would be individual types of plastics, ceramics, glass, metals, alloys, paper, board, resins and coatings.

30. The term '**mechanically disjointed**' means that the materials can, in principle, be separated by mechanical actions such as unscrewing, cutting, crushing, grinding and abrasive processes.

31. Using these interpretations, a plastic cover (for example) would be a 'homogeneous material' if it consisted exclusively of one type of plastic that was not coated with or had attached to it (or inside it) any other kinds of materials. In this case, the maximum concentration values of the RoHS Regulations would apply to the plastic.

32. On the other hand, an electric cable that consisted of metal wires surrounded by non-metallic insulation materials would be an example of something that is not 'homogeneous material' because mechanical processes could separate the different materials. In this case the maximum concentration values of the RoHS Regulations would apply to each of the separated materials individually.

33. A semi-conductor package (as a final example) would contain many homogeneous materials, which include the plastic moulding material, the tin-electroplating coatings on the lead frame, the lead frame alloy and the gold-bonding wires.

### Compliance

34. Producers must demonstrate compliance with the Regulations by providing the enforcement authority (on request) with satisfactory evidence of such compliance in

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<sup>5</sup> Commission Decision 2005/618/EC of 18 August 2005, (OJ No. L214, 19.08.2005, p.65)

the form of relevant technical documentation or information. The UK intends to accept self-declaration as the basis of the compliance regime. The enforcement authority will carry out market surveillance to detect non-compliant products and may conduct tests for this purpose.

35. There is no prescribed method to demonstrate compliance but producers may wish to consider the role that both materials declarations and component or material analysis could play: -

### **Materials declarations**

36. Producers of EEE could obtain an assurance from their suppliers that any materials, components, assemblies or equipment provided do not contain more than the permitted level of any of the six restricted substances, except where the application of any of those substances comes within the scope of the RoHS Regulations' exempted applications. Producers are required to keep appropriate records for a period of up to four years after the particular EEE product was placed on the market.

37. A variety of materials declarations for suppliers are being developed by industry at the moment. Some finished or end product manufacturers have already started to publish such data on their websites.

### **Producer analysis**

38. Producers of EEE to be placed on the UK market may wish to undertake (or ask a third party to undertake) their own analysis of the components or materials that they use in their products. This action may be undertaken either to verify supplier declarations or to establish the presence or otherwise of the restricted substances in those cases where no declaration is available. It may also be undertaken if there are doubts over the reliability of declarations.

39. Producers or third parties may employ any suitable analytical technique in order to establish that their products comply with the maximum concentration values of the six restricted substances. The criteria for analysis will depend on the quantity of product put onto the market (less for small producers than for large producers), the relationship with suppliers, the risk of a banned substance being present, and the potential impact of that substance on the environment. Producers must ensure that they understand and take into account any limitations of the analytical technique they use.

40. At Annex D, you will find an example of a flow chart that has been designed to clarify the compliance process and could help producers determine when analysis of components might be advisable.

### **Enforcement**

41. It shall be the duty of the National Weights and Measures Laboratory, acting on behalf of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, to enforce these Regulations.

42. Various powers of enforcement will be available, including: -

- Making test purchases.
- Requesting compliance documentation, inspecting processes and performing analytical tests.

- Issuing of a compliance notice requiring certain action to be taken.

### **Offences and Penalties**

43. The RoHS Regulations introduce the following offences:

- i. Contravening or failing to comply with the prohibition on hazardous substances in the RoHS Regulations could result in those held responsible facing a fine up to the statutory maximum (currently £5,000) on summary conviction or an unlimited fine on conviction on indictment.
- ii. Those failing to submit compliance documentation at the request of the enforcement authority may be liable to a fine up to level five on the standard scale (currently £5,000).

44. The defence of 'due diligence' is available where a person can show he took all reasonable steps and exercised all due diligence to avoid committing an offence. This may include reference to an act or default or information given by a third party, in which case it must be accompanied by information identifying the third party, or that information in possession of the person making the claim. The Regulations also provide for the 'liability of persons other than the principle offender' and allow a third party to be prosecuted as though they had committed the offence.

45. Where an offence by a corporate body is shown to have been committed with the consent, connivance or through the neglect of any director, manager or similar officer of the corporate body, they could be regarded as having committed the offence as well as the corporate body.

## Contact points for further information

### **Department of Trade and Industry**

Eco-design and Product Policy Unit  
Sustainable Development Directorate  
151 Buckingham Palace Road  
London SW1W 9SS

**Tel:** +44 (0) 20 7215 4156

**Email:** [sustainability@dti.gov.uk](mailto:sustainability@dti.gov.uk)

**Website:** [www.dti.gov.uk/sustainability](http://www.dti.gov.uk/sustainability)

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### **The National Weights & Measures Laboratory's RoHS Enforcement Team – a DTI service working with electrical and electronic equipment manufacturers to deliver compliance with the RoHS Directive in the UK**

RoHS Enforcement Team  
NWML  
Stanton Avenue  
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TW11 0JZ

**Tel:** +44 (0) 20 8943 7227

**Email:** [rohs@nwml.gov.uk](mailto:rohs@nwml.gov.uk)

**Website:** [www.rohs.gov.uk](http://www.rohs.gov.uk)

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### **Envirowise Telephone Helpline**

0800 585 794 (UK calls only)

**Website:** [www.envirowise.gov.uk](http://www.envirowise.gov.uk)

This Helpline is a telephone enquiry service, funded by the Government, providing a comprehensive information and signposting service for firms seeking advice on a wide range of environmental issues that may affect their business.

# Annex A

## Categories of electrical and electronic equipment covered by the RoHS Regulations

### 1. Large household appliances

(Such as large cooling appliances; refrigerators; freezers; other large appliances used for refrigeration, conservation and storage of food; washing machines; clothes dryers; dish washing machines; cooking; electric stoves; electric hot plates; microwaves; other large appliances used for cooking and other processing of food; electric heating appliances; electric radiators; other large appliances for heating rooms, beds, seating furniture; electric fans; air conditioner appliances; other fanning, exhaust ventilation and conditioning equipment)

### 2. Small household appliances

(Such as vacuum cleaners; carpet sweepers; other appliances for cleaning; appliances used for sewing, knitting, weaving and other processing for textiles; irons and other appliances for ironing, mangling and other care of clothing; toasters; fryers; grinders, coffee machines and equipment for opening or sealing of containers or packages; electric knives; appliances for hair-cutting, hair drying, tooth brushing, shaving, massage and other body care appliances; clocks, watches and equipment for the purpose of measuring, indicating or registering time; scales)

### 3. IT and telecommunications equipment

(Such as centralised data processing; mainframes; minicomputers; printer units; personal computing; personal computers, including the CPU, mouse and keyboard; laptop computers, including the CPU, mouse and keyboard; notebook computers; notepad computers; printers; copying equipment; electrical and electronic typewriters; pocket and desk calculators; other products and equipment for the collection, storage, processing, presentation or communication of information by electronic means; user terminals and systems; facsimile; telex; telephones; pay telephones; cordless telephones; cellular telephones; answering systems; other products or equipment of transmitting sound, images or other information by telecommunications)

### 4. Consumer equipment

(Such as radio sets; television sets; video cameras; video recorders; hi-fi recorders; audio amplifiers; musical instruments; other products or equipment for the purpose of recording or reproducing sound or images, including signals or other technologies for the distribution of sound and image than by telecommunications)

### 5. Lighting equipment, (including electric light bulbs and household luminaires)

(Such as luminaires for fluorescent lamps; straight fluorescent lamps; compact fluorescent lamps; high intensity discharge lamps, including pressure sodium lamps and metal halide lamps; low pressure sodium lamps; other lighting equipment for the purpose of spreading or controlling light)

**6. Electrical and electronic tools (with the exception of large-scale stationary industrial tools)**

(Such as drills; saws; sewing machines; equipment for turning, milling, sanding, grinding, sawing; cutting; shearing; drilling; making holes; punching; folding; bending or similar processing of wood, metal and other materials; tools for riveting, nailing or screwing or removing rivets, nails, screws or similar uses; tools for welding, soldering or similar use; equipment for spraying, spreading, dispersing or other treatment of liquid or gaseous substances by other means; tools for mowing or other gardening activities)

**7. Toys, leisure and sports equipment**

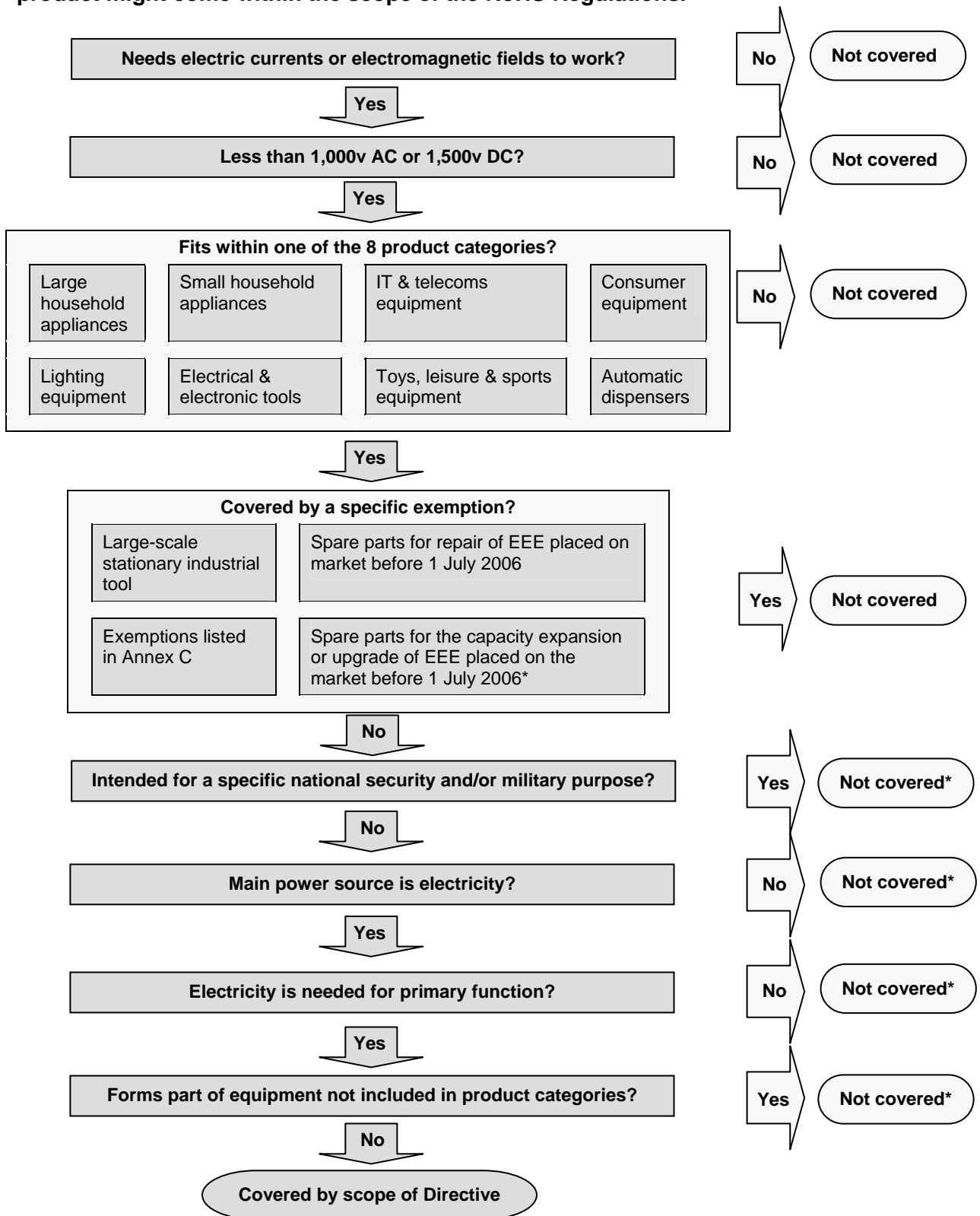
(Such as electric trains or car racing sets; hand-held video game consoles; video games; computers for biking, diving, running, rowing, etc.; sports equipment with electric or electronic components; coin slot machines)

**8. Automatic dispensers**

(Such as automatic dispensers for hot drinks; automatic dispensers for hot or cold bottles or cans; automatic dispensers for solid products; automatic dispensers for money; all appliances which deliver automatically all kind of products)

## Annex B

A 'decision tree' that could be used by producers to decide whether or not a product might come within the scope of the RoHS Regulations.



\*While these exclusions are not expressly provided for in the Directive, it is the DTI view that they apply. It should be noted, however, that a definitive legal interpretation is only available from the court. Producers should rely on independent legal advice on compliance.

## Annex C

*[Those parts of this Annex highlighted in grey are amendments and additions to the original Annex to the RoHS Directive made by two Commission Decisions published in the Official Journal in October 2005<sup>6</sup>. The RoHS Regulations will be amended to reflect these changes in due course.]*

**Guidance on the specific applications of lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, PBB and PBDE set out in Schedule 2 of the RoHS Regulations that are exempt from its requirements: -**

### **1. Mercury in compact fluorescent lamps not exceeding 5 mg per lamp.**

A compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) is usually defined as a single-ended fluorescent lamp with a bent discharge tube of small diameter, of around 10-16 mm, to form a very compact unit. These lamps can be either integral, whereby the lamp and ballast are combined (also known as self-ballasted or self-supporting), or pin-based.

For the purpose of this exemption, CFLs can contain no more than 5 mg of mercury per lamp.

### **2. Mercury in straight fluorescent lamps for general purposes not exceeding:**

- 10 mg in halophosphate lamps
- 5 mg in triphosphate lamps with a normal lifetime
- 8 mg in triphosphate lamps with a long lifetime.

A straight, or linear, fluorescent lamp is a fluorescent lamp of straight tubular form and bi-pin electrical connections at either end.

The colour properties of straight fluorescent lamps are determined by the phosphors used to coat the inside of the tube. Halophosphate and triphosphate are examples of such fluorescent materials.

Straight fluorescent lamps for general purpose can be defined as lamps used for general lighting solutions, in contrast to lamps used for special purposes (see item 3 below).

### **3. Mercury in straight fluorescent lamps for special purposes.**

Examples of such lamps are LCD back light lamps, disinfection lamps, medical/therapy lamps, pet care lamps (e.g. aquaria lamps), lamps with special components (e.g. integrated reflectors or external protection sleeves), lamps with special ignition features (e.g. designed for low temperatures), long length lamps (length > 1800mm) and amalgam lamps.

In this context, there is no restriction on the quantity of mercury in these lamps.

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<sup>6</sup> Commission Decision 2005/717/EC of 13 October 2005, (OJ No. L271, 15.10.2005, p.48) and Commission Decision 2005/747/EC of 21 October 2005, (OJ No. L280, 25.10.2005, p.18)



#### **4. Mercury in other lamps not specifically mentioned in this Annex.**

Examples of other lamps containing mercury are high intensity discharge (HID) lamps (e.g. sodium lamps and metal halide lamps), circular fluorescent lamps and U-shaped fluorescent lamps.

In this context, there is no restriction on the quantity of mercury in these lamps.

#### **5. Lead in glass of cathode ray tubes, electronic components and fluorescent tubes.**

Lead, or more specifically lead oxide, is often used in glass for electrical and electronic equipment to obtain specific characteristics, such as radiation protection (CRTs, medical applications), filtering (photography, image processing) and strengthening purposes (e.g. production of fluorescent tubes). This exemption has been introduced because viable alternatives for these applications have not yet been identified.

For clarity, the exemption applies to lead as a constituent in the glass used in cathode ray tubes, lead as a constituent in the glass used in electronic components and lead as a constituent in the glass used in fluorescent tubes.

#### **6. Lead as an alloying element in steel containing up to 0.35% lead by weight, aluminium containing up to 0.4% lead by weight and as a copper alloy containing up to 4% lead by weight.**

Lead is often used as an alloying element to obtain specific properties of a metal alloy. This exemption applies to the use of lead in steel up to 0.35% by weight, in aluminium up to 0.4% by weight and in copper alloys up to 4% by weight. In the context of this exemption, 'percentage by weight' has to be interpreted as 'the percentage of lead per homogeneous material per discreet part'. For example, if the steel housing of a computer consists of two separate parts, each part can contain up to 0.35% lead by weight of that part.

#### **7. Lead in high melting temperature type solders (i.e. lead based alloys containing 85% by weight or more lead).**

For the purposes of applications 7, 8 and 9 in this Annex, it is useful to clarify the term 'solder'. In these Guidance Notes, 'solder' is defined as "alloys used to create metallurgical bonds between two or more metal surfaces to achieve an electrical and/or physical connection". In this context, the term 'solder' also includes all materials that become part of the final solder joint, including solder finishes on components or printed circuit boards.

The high melting temperature type solder exemption has been introduced to allow the use of lead in solders for specific applications (such as in power semiconductor package manufacturing), for which viable lead-free alternatives have not yet been identified. This exemption is permitted as there are no alternative alloys with similar melting point and which are ductile. The high electrical conductivity and unique mechanical properties of such a high melting point tin-lead alloy make the material malleable and better able to withstand both temperature and physical stress. Such properties ensure fewer defects during manufacturing and high reliability throughout the life of the component, thereby also resulting in fewer components going into the waste stream.

**8. Lead in solders for servers, storage and storage array systems, network infrastructure equipment for switching, signaling, transmission as well as network management for telecommunication.**

See definition of 'solder' given for application 7 above.

This exemption has been introduced to allow the use of lead in solders for professional, high reliability applications, such as servers and network infrastructure equipment, for which viable lead-free alternatives have not yet been identified.

In this context, a '**server**' is seen as a computer that meets one of the technology criteria that are set out in section (a) below, and the functional criteria set out in section (b) below.

*(a) Technology criteria for a server*

- 1) Designed and placed on the market as a Class A product as per EN55022:1994 under the EMC Directive 89/336/EEC (intended primarily for use in the professional environment) and designed and capable of having a single or dual processor capability (one or more sockets on board); or
- 2) Designed and placed on the market as a Class B product (intended primarily for use in the domestic environment) as per EN55022:1994 under the EMC Directive 89/336/EEC and designed and capable of having at least dual processor capability (two sockets on board).

*(b) Functional design criteria for a server*

- 1) Designed and capable of operating in a mission-critical, high-reliability, high-availability application in which use may be 24 hours per day and 7 days per week, and unscheduled downtime is extremely low (minutes per year).

Examples of typical server functions are the provision of network infrastructure, gateway or switching services, the hosting and management of data on behalf of multiple users, or the running of server-capable operating systems (e.g. as for a web server).

It is the Department's view that this exemption is viewed as applying to the whole of the computer and its components including processors, memory boards, power converters, power supplies, enclosed housings, modular power subsystems and adapter cards. It would also seem to apply to the components that are integrated into the whole computer or that are sold separately for use in an exempt server. Cables and cable assemblies, and all connectors and connector assemblies used to provide interconnections for the server, would also be covered by this exemption.

It should be noted that this exemption is not viewed as applying to parts or components that are peripheral to the server, nor does it apply to parts or components when they are used other than in an exempt server.

For the purpose of the RoHS Regulations, a '**storage or storage array system**' is viewed as any storage device or subsystem that meets one of the following criteria:

- 1) Designed and placed on the market as a Class A product as per EN55022:1994 under the EMC Directive 89/336/EEC; or

- 2) Designed and placed on the market as a Class B product as per EN55022:1994 under the EMC Directive 89/336/EEC and designed to meet one of the following two criteria: -
  - a) Any storage device capable of accepting direct or switched input from more than one computer, for example fibre channel and SCSI devices, or
  - b) Any storage fabric or switching device for interconnecting storage devices to server products.

It is the Department's view that this exemption is viewed as applying to the whole of the device or subsystem and their components including processors, memory boards, power converters, power supplies, enclosed housings, modular power subsystems and adapter cards. It would also seem to apply to the components that are integrated into the whole storage or storage array system or that are sold separately for use in an exempt storage or storage array system. Cables and cable assemblies, and all connectors and connector assemblies used to provide interconnections for the storage or storage array system, would also be covered by this exemption.

It should be noted that this exemption does not apply to parts or components that are peripheral to the storage or storage array system, nor does it apply to parts or components when they are used other than in an exempt storage or storage array system.

For the purpose of the RoHS Regulations, '**network infrastructure equipment for telecommunication purposes**' is viewed by the Department as equipment meeting one of the two following criteria:

- 1) Any system used for routing, switching, signalling, transmission, or network management or network security; or
- 2) Any system which can simultaneously enable more than one end user terminating equipment to connect to a network.

It is also any such system in a network, except for end user terminating equipment such as voice terminals and facsimile machines.

This would include all servers, power suppliers, display devices and similar electronic units that are incorporated into network infrastructure equipment. It would also include all cables and cable assemblies, and all connectors and connector assemblies used to provide interconnections for network infrastructure equipment but is not intended to include desktop or notebook computers, telephones, fax machines or consumer – type modems or switches etc.

## **9. Lead in electronic ceramic parts (e.g. piezoelectronic devices).**

Ceramic materials are used in a variety of electronic devices including capacitors, insulators, piezoelectrics, magnets and integrated circuit packages. Some of these ceramic materials contain lead, for example lead zirconate titanate and lead magnesium niobate. The specific chemical composition and manufacturing process of these materials determine their electrical parameters, such as dielectric constant and the dissipation, that is essential for the functioning of the component in which they are used. Hence, lead used in the ceramic parts of

electronic components in electrical and electronic equipment is exempt from these Regulations.

**10. Cadmium and its compounds in electrical contacts and cadmium plating except for applications banned under Directive 91/338/EEC (OJ No. L 186, 12 July 1991, p. 59) amending Directive 76/769/EEC (OJ No. L262, 27 September 1976, p. 201) relating to restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations.**

Directive 91/338/EEC amending Directive 76/769/EEC relating to restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations, gives the following definition of cadmium plating: "Within the meaning of this Directive, 'cadmium plating' means any deposit or coating of metallic cadmium on a metallic surface." This definition is seen as applying for the purpose of the RoHS Regulations.

Subsequently, the Marketing and Use Directive (as amended) bans the use of cadmium plating in a variety of product sectors. However, that Directive allows the use of cadmium plating for "electrical contacts in any sector of use, on account of the reliability required of the apparatus on which they are installed."

As a result, in this context cadmium plating is prohibited for products manufactured in the household goods and central heating and air conditioning plant sectors. However, it is viewed as being permitted for electrical contacts in all the WEEE categories to which the RoHS Regulations apply.

**11. Hexavalent chromium as an anti-corrosion of the carbon steel cooling system in absorption refrigerators.**

As absorption cooling works on several different types of energy sources such as gas, kerosene, batteries or electricity, absorption fridges are often used in recreational vehicles (e.g. motor homes and caravans) or remote places where electricity is not available. Another typical application is for minibars in hotel rooms as these fridges are virtually noiseless.

The applied heat and use of a water-ammonia mixture results in a corrosive environment that warrants the use of hexavalent chromium. This exemption has been introduced, since viable alternatives for this specific application have so far not been identified.

**12. Deca BDE in polymeric applications**

Deca Brominated Diphenyl Ether (Deca BDE) is a commercial substance used as a flame retardant in a wide range of polymeric applications including plastics, rubbers, elastomers, coatings, adhesives and sealants. This substance has been subject to a 10-year risk assessment at EU level (under Council Regulation (EEC) No 793/93 of 23 March 1993 on the evaluation and control of the risks of existing substances), which has concluded that there is at present no need for additional measures to reduce the risks beyond those that are being applied already. As a result, applications of the commercial Deca BDE substance in electrical and electronic equipment have been exempted from the requirements of the RoHS Directive and the RoHS Regulations.

### **13. Lead in lead-bronze bearing shells and bushes**

Lead-bronze bearing shells and bushes are used, amongst others, in compressors for stationary refrigeration and air conditioning equipment. Typical characteristics of such compressors include a long design life (over 50.000 hours for residential applications and over 100.000 for commercial applications) and an hermetic sealing to prevent refrigerant leakage and ensure reliable, uninterrupted operation without service for up to 15 years. Combined with the unique technical aspects of the refrigeration cycle (dry-starts, miscibility of the lubricant, repeated condensing and boiling, etc.), the bearings need excellent self-lubrication properties to meet the high durability and reliability requirements. Due to its lubricious nature, the use of lead as a bearing constituent is critical in these applications. This exemption has been introduced because so far no suitable alternative has been identified, although other materials have been extensively tested.

### **14. Lead used in compliant pin connector systems.**

Compliant pin contacts are used to attach connectors or components to a double-sided printed circuit board. This connector system avoids the need for soldering during manufacturing, thereby avoiding the overheating of components and damaging the integrity of the connectors and board material and allows separation for repair. Such pins are coated with a tin-lead alloy to ensure good electrical conductivity, maintain sufficient spring-back force and facilitate insertion of the pins into the boards. The use of tin-lead also reduces the risk of tin whiskers, which may affect reliability.

This exemption has been introduced because suitable alternatives to the tin-lead alloy have not yet been identified.

### **15. Lead as a coating material for the thermal conduction module c-ring.**

A thermal conduction module c-ring serves a specific purpose in the manufacturing of high performance electronic modules. Such modules are the key components of a mainframe central processing unit and typically contain multiple chips. The c-ring functions as a hermetical seal, continuously dissipating heat and preventing oxidation of solder joints.

While substitutes for lead in this application have been investigated, no feasible alternative has so far been identified.

### **16. Lead and cadmium in optical and filter glass.**

Lead and cadmium are used in optical glass and filter glass to obtain specific properties and meet quality standards, for a wide variety of applications including in the photo industry (e.g. camera lenses), in projectors, scanners, printers and copiers.

This exemption has been introduced because suitable alternatives for many of these applications have not yet been identified.

**17. Lead in solders consisting of more than two elements for the connection between the pins and the package of microprocessors with a lead content of more than 80% and less than 85% by weight.**

Microprocessors are mounted onto boards or substrates by way of a socket. Such sockets require that a large number of pins (up to 950) are mounted onto the microprocessor for completing the necessary electrical connections. The high customer quality demands for these products mean that such packages are extensively tested, which necessitates high adhesion strength of the pins. This is even more critical at higher pin counts and the application of lead in the proportions specified in this exemption is essential to achieve the necessary properties.

Substitute materials without lead are used by some manufacturers but for high pin counts, the development of alternatives before 1 July 2006 would create significant quantities of waste. This exemption has been introduced to allow for the development of alternative designs without generating excessive amounts of waste.

**18. Lead in solders to complete a viable electrical connection between semiconductor die and carrier within integrated circuit Flip Chip packages.**

Flip chips are attached to their packages or PCBs using very small solder bumps and many types use solder bumps containing lead. Lead is used for two main reasons. Its ductility reduces the risk of damage to brittle parts of flip chip circuitry. Lead also protects against the possibility of thermal fatigue, which results from cyclic temperature changes and is not well understood with lead-free solders. High melting point solder bumps are attached using solder containing typically 37 – 40% lead to the package because this combination has a high resistance to a phenomenon called “electromigration” which in higher power flip chip packages would otherwise cause premature failure of the device. The solder connections to the chip are known as level 1 and level 1 flip-chip connections may contain lead. The external solder connections between packages and PCB known as level 2 are excluded from this exemption as viable alternatives have been developed.

## Annex D

An example of a flow chart designed to clarify the compliance process and that could help producers determine when analysis of components might be advisable.

