

ARE YOU RoHS COMPLIANT?

RoHS is a relatively new piece of environmental legislation. It stands for the 'Restriction of the use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment' (EEE). Its objective is to protect the environment by controlling the amount of restricted substances entering the waste stream.

The RoHS Directive applies to any producer of electric or electronic equipment. It targets a number of substances which have been identified as potentially harmful to human health or the environment. The legislation came into force on 1st July 2006, so any EEE within the scope of RoHS placed on the market after this date is subject to these Regulations.

If a 'producer' brings electrical equipment that falls within the scope of RoHS to market they are responsible for complying with the Regulations. A producer is defined as any professional person who:

- manufactures and sells EEE under their own brand
- resells EEE under their own brand
- imports or exports EEE into the EU.

After speaking to a number of producers in the industry at Leisure Industry Week 2008, there were still a number who had no knowledge of RoHS.

The RoHS Regulations restrict the following substances, with a limit of 0.1% by weight in a homogenous material:

- 1) **Lead** (lead in solder is a common offender and something to look out for)
- 2) **Mercury**
- 3) **Hexavalent chromium** (used as a corrosion coating – has an oily, brassy appearance)
- 4) **Polybrominated biphenyls** (PBB – a flame retardant)
- 5) **Polybrominated diphenyl ethers** (PBDE – a flame retardant)
- 6) **Cadmium** has a limit of 0.01%.

The RoHS Enforcement team has been working hard to spread information about the Regulations and have been answering enquiries from businesses that have any questions about RoHS. If you or your business has any further queries about the RoHS Regulations, please do not hesitate to contact us via the enquiries section on our website:

<http://www.rohs.gov.uk/>

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