

European Union RoHS Directive

The RoHS – Restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment – directive came into force in Europe on July 1st 2006. The directive specifies the maximum concentrations of lead, and of five other hazardous substances, that can be present in products that include electronic sub-assemblies and systems. If the limits are exceeded in products sold in Europe after July 1st 2006, the organization responsible for enforcing the legislation in each country can take the appropriate action. It is important to recognize that there is no ‘grandfather period’ that will enable products manufactured and stocked before the directive’s implementation date to be sold in Europe. Products throughout the supply chain therefore were required to be compliant by July 1st 2006.

The substances to which the RoHS directive applies are:

- Lead
- Mercury
- Cadmium
- Hexavalent chromium
- Polybrominated biphenyls
- Polybrominated diphenyl ethers

Clearly, ‘lead-free’ does not mean ‘RoHS compliant’ With respect to maximum concentrations of the above materials that are to be permitted, the latest proposal states:

“A maximum concentration of 0.1% by weight in homogenous materials for lead, mercury, hexavalent chromium, polybrominated biphenyls and polybrominated ethers and of 0.01% by weight in homogenous materials for cadmium shall be tolerated.” There had been a debate concerning the term ‘homogeneous’, this however, has now been defined as ‘of uniform composition throughout’, which basically means down to material level. This definition no longer relates to a percentage of the equipment mass. It doesn’t even necessarily refer to a component. For example a semiconductor consists of many homogeneous materials. Its lead frame, gold bonding wires and plastic case must each individually comply with the requirements of the Directive.



MMD Monitor-Quartztek RoHS Statement and Policy

MMD Monitor-Quartztek is committed to providing our customers with products that are compliant with environmental regulations. It is our primary objective to enable our customers with a smooth transition as our products are converted to Pb-free lead finishes.

MMD Monitor-Quartztek has converted the majority of its products for the customers who must meet the requirements of the European Union Directive on the Restrictions on use of certain Hazardous Substances (RoHS). We are also well prepared to meet the requirements of upcoming China's Management Measures on Electronic information Product Pollution Control (China-RoHS) regulation.

MMD Monitor-Quartztek is committed to providing our customers with quality products that are environmentally sound.

We will support customers with Pb product providing business remains beneficial & profitable.



RoHS (China) Policy

On February 28, 2006, China published a new law entitled Administration on the Control of Pollution Caused by Electronic Information Products (ACPEIP). ACPEIP is often referred to as the China RoHS because, as far as the prohibition of substances is concerned, it does indeed have similarities to the EU Directive for the Restriction of Hazardous Substances.

Unlike EU RoHS, China RoHS only affects products and components that appear in the published Electronic Information Products (EIP) list.

The ACPEIP regulates the dissemination on the Chinese market of Electronic Information Products (EIPs) that contain:

- Lead (Pb)
- Mercury (Hg)
- Cadmium (Cd)
- Hexavalent chromium (Cr6+)
- Polybrominated biphenyls (PBBs)
- Polybrominated diphenyl ether (PBDE)

Up to thresholds defined in accordance with Industry Standard SJ/T 11363-2006. In principle, the maximum permitted thresholds line up with those published in the EU's RoHS Commission Decision (2005/618/EC). However, the ACPEIP legislation also includes a number of requirements that go beyond the RoHS Directive. The Chinese law, for example, requires that special labels and supplementary information be attached to affected equipment listed in the EIP's. By the end of 2007/early 2008, it will also make tests and certification compulsory for certain EIP's.

All EIP's that are manufactured in or imported to China fall under the jurisdiction of the ACPEIP. The labeling and supplementary information requirements concern every EIP. On the other hand, the prohibitions on certain substances and the need for certification prior to marketing concern only those EIP's that will be defined in a special Key Product Catalogue. The finalized rules and standards for the creation of this catalogue, and the implementation of certification, have not yet been published.

Time Frame: March 1, 2007: Covers labeling and supplementary information: Affects, with exceptions, every product defined as an EIP.

Important Note: EIP's that are intended for further processing do not have to be labeled. The relevant information must be made available by the supplier, however, firm dates have not yet been set for the prohibition of substances.

We recognize however, that our products will be used by our customers as parts in their systems where these systems need to be compliant. In order to provide the best service to this category of customer we are undertaking a program to convert most of our products to compliance. MMD Monitor-Quartztek is continuing to assess and determine the appropriate China RoHS status of all its products. We will monitor changing developments in order to support our customers.