

RoHS* – Are You Prepared?

- Do you have customers in CALIFORNIA, EUROPE, or CHINA?
- Does your product contain LEAD?
- Does your product contain INSULATED WIRING or OTHER PLASTICS?
- Does your product use METAL PARTS?

If you answered YES to one or more of these questions, you need to be proactive about RoHS.

- If your product is SOLDERED using CONVENTIONAL SOLDER or uses LEAD-CONTAINING COMPONENTS, it contains LEAD.
- If your product uses INSULATED WIRING and/or PLASTICS, it likely contains BROMINATED COMPOUNDS used as fire retardants.
- If your product uses METAL PARTS, you may have HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM or CADMIUM in your product.
- Similar rules apply for MERCURY.

Unless you TAKE ACTION to remove or reduce LEAD, CADMIUM, HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM, MERCURY, and certain BROMINATED compounds from your products, you will not be legally allowed to sell them in:

- The EUROPEAN UNION after June 30, 2006
- CHINA after June 30, 2006
- CALIFORNIA after December 31, 2006
- Other US States and other countries as they adopt similar laws

The limits allowed are very low and very strict. The following limits apply to every homogeneous material used in any part or component within your product:

- Cadmium: 0.01% by weight.
- Lead, hexavalent chromium, mercury: 0.1% by weight.
- Polybrominated biphenyls (PBBs) and Polybrominated diphenyl ether (PBDE): 0.1% by weight.

(over)

* RoHS: Restriction of Hazardous Substances (often pronounced RoHaaS) is the European Union's Directive to reduce the amount of hazardous substances released into the environment via the production and disposal of electronics. The directive has become law and goes into effect in the EU on July 1, 2006. Other countries and US states are following the EU lead. - 1 -

How to be Proactive:

1. Institute an action plan to bring your products into RoHS compliance, otherwise you may find your markets closed to your products by the middle or end of 2006.
2. Realize that even if you choose to ignore RoHS, you will be affected because:
 - The assembly industry is converting to “lead-free” soldering processes that are incompatible with standard lead-containing components (such as tin-lead plating on component leads.) Soon, processing of assemblies containing lead will be the exception rather than the rule.
 - The component industry is converting their parts to be RoHS compliant. Many parts will be obsoleted rather than converted. Your product stands a high chance of requiring some level of layout or redesign.
3. Start early. Converting a design to RoHS compliancy is a multistep and time consuming process. For large or complex products, it may take a year. It involves:
 - Identifying all parts in a design that are not RoHS compliant.
 - Researching alternative parts that are compliant and vendors that can provide certified compliant parts (such as metal and plastic parts.)
 - Redesigning the product with all-RoHS compliant parts. Engineering the product to handle the higher lead-free soldering process temperatures.
 - Generating and maintaining the proper documentation package to demonstrate RoHS compliance for every part in your product and assembly processes.
 - Re-certifying to UL/CSE or other standards agencies.

The State of Compliancy:

- Many companies are not aware of the impact that RoHS will have on them.
- Many small to medium size companies have not started the conversion process.
- Many companies, even large ones, are straining under the workload to review and convert their products to be compliant.

What Can You Do? Act now to begin or accelerate your RoHS compliancy program.

Metrix is here to help you with:

- BOM audits for RoHS compliance
- Identification of alternative components to replace non-compliant parts
- Engineering and redesigns of printed circuit boards for RoHS compliance and lead-free soldering processes
- Compilation of documentation packages for RoHS parts in your designs

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