



RoHS – The Restriction of Use of Hazardous Substances Directive

As from 1st July 2006 certain categories of electrical & electronic equipment (EEE) manufactured or imported into the EU may not contain more than the permitted amount of any substance banned under the Directive.

Questions and Answers

- Q** Can I continue to supply products designed prior to these regulations coming into force, after 1st July 2006?
- A** No – all products supplied within the EU after 1st July 2006 must be able to be proved to be RoHS compliant.
- Q** I am a manufacturer outside the EU. Can I continue to supply non RoHS compliant products into the EU after 1st July 2006?
- A** No – a “Certificate of RoHS Compliance” must cover any products supplied into the EU after 1st July 2006.
- Q** I am a manufacturer outside the EU. Can I continue to supply non RoHS compliant products supplied to our distribution Company/Division in the EU prior to 1st July 2006, after 1st July 2006?
- A** No – your distribution Company or Division is treated as if they were the manufacturer and all products sold by them within the EU after 1st July 2006 must be RoHS compliant.
- Q** I am an importer/distributor in the EU. Can I continue to supply non RoHS compliant products sourced from outside the EU before 1st July 2006?
- A** Yes – provided these are branded products from recognised manufacturers and you have evidence to prove these were imported prior to 1st July 2006.



- Q** I am an importer/distributor in the EU. Can I continue to supply our own brand non RoHS compliant products sourced prior to 1st July 2006, after 1st July 2006?
- A** In principle, no. Where products are received as finished products and no further work is done on them (labelling/packaging etc) then this may be allowed. However where products are subject to any subsequent work, ie labelling or packaging, then these are treated as new products from the date you carried out the work. You are regarded as the manufacturer (producer) and these products must be RoHS compliant otherwise they cannot be sold.
- Q** I am a distributor in the EU – can I supply non RoHS compliant products sourced either from inside or outside the EU prior to 1st July 2006, that I subsequently label or package with another company's brand?
- A** No – the point of manufacture is regarded as the date at which you carry out the work and the date of supply is when you intend to sell on. Although the responsibility for ensuring compliance rests with the brand owner these products must be RoHS compliant from 1st July 2006.
- It makes no difference whether the products are sourced from within or outside the EU.

Polyfield run regular RoHS/WEEE update courses at the Innovation Centre, University of Hertfordshire. Contact us for more information, or look on our website www.polyfield.co.uk