

20 April 2005

Deca-BDE Exemption from EU RoHS Directive awaits Council Approval

EU Member States voted on 19th April on the Commission's proposal for a Decision to exempt the flame retardant Deca-BDE from the Restriction on Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directive.

The majority of EU Member State votes were in favour of Deca-BDE's exemption from the RoHS Directive. The proposal did not reach the necessary qualified majority (72.3% of the votes) to be adopted immediately. The proposal will now be sent to the EU Council of Ministers which will have a maximum three months to adopt a decision.

EBFRIP is encouraged by this positive vote which demonstrates significant Member State support for the Commission's proposal and welcomes this step forward towards adoption of Deca-BDE's exemption from the RoHS Directive. The prospects for Deca-BDE's exemption are now strong. To reject the Commission's proposal, the Council would have to oppose it by more than 70% of the vote, i.e. a significant reversal of positions compared to the vote in Committee.

EBFRIP calls on the Council to confirm the Commission's proposal to exempt Deca-BDE from the RoHS Directive so as to take into account the closure of a 10-year EU scientific risk assessment of Deca-BDE in May 2004 which identified no risks for the environment or health.

Statement ends