

16 November 2004

## **Update on the latest EU Member State meeting of the EU RoHS Directive regarding the exemption of Deca-BDE**

At the latest meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, the EU Member States and the European Commission discussed the Deca-BDE exemption from the Directive on the Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS)<sup>1</sup> in electrical and electronic equipment.

A note<sup>2</sup> of this meeting from the UK Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) indicates that participants discussed the positive risk assessment outcome of Deca-BDE and its consequence for exempting this substance from the RoHS Directive.

According to this note, *“the UK said that it believed the RoHS ban on Deca-BDE was both no longer appropriate and incompatible with the other [EU Risk Assessment] legislation. A Commission official from DG Enterprise added that the risk assessment was now officially completed and that the agreed programmes were aimed at addressing any remaining concerns. Whilst some TAC members supported the UK and DG Enterprise position, two disagreed and said that the precautionary principle should be applied since there still were some unknown concerns”*.

*“The Commission concluded discussions for the day by saying that it intended to deal with all the exemptions issues by grouping them into three distinct sets of proposals. (...) The second set of proposed exemptions would cover Deca-BDE, the lead in lead-bronze bearing shells & bushes, the lead crystal in the glass of chandeliers and the use of non-RoHS compliant parts from old electrical and electronic equipment in the manufacture of new equipment. (...)”*. EBFRIIP expects this second set of RoHS exemptions to be voted at the latest in February.

Should you need further information, please contact EBFRIIP at [rmo@cefic.be](mailto:rmo@cefic.be).

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<sup>1</sup> The text of the Directive can be viewed at: [http://www.bsef-site.com/regulation/eu\\_legislation/doc%20202%20rohs.pdf](http://www.bsef-site.com/regulation/eu_legislation/doc%20202%20rohs.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> The note is available on the DTI website: [http://www.dti.gov.uk/sustainability/weee/TAC\\_22\\_October.pdf](http://www.dti.gov.uk/sustainability/weee/TAC_22_October.pdf)