

25 May 2010

Upcoming RoHS Directive vote should be based on science

EBFRIP regrets the call by some electronic producers to limit the use of brominated flame retardants (BFRs) in the context of the revision of the RoHS Directive because it is not based on science.

Ahead of the RoHS Directive vote in the Environment committee of the European Parliament, EBFRIP believes that important decisions such as the ban of life saving substances, should be solely taken on the basis of scientific evidence: there is no such evidence in the latest report of the NGO Chemsec from which the statement stems.

It is not responsible to advocate the switch to unnamed alternative flame retardants, the environmental and health impact of which has not yet been sufficiently studied and assessed; and it also goes against the spirit of both the new EU chemicals legislation REACH and the current moves to revise RoHS so that it is based on scientific criteria.

BFRs in electronic products are extremely effective at preventing fires from spreading in homes. They save hundreds of lives every year in Europe.