

22 December 2009

EBFRIP takes note of the Environment Council report on ROHS

EBFRIP takes note of the state of play presented by the Swedish Presidency at the 22 December Environment Council on the latest discussions regarding the proposal to revise the RoHS Directive^[1].

EBFRIP welcomes the fact that most Member States agree that a separate RoHS methodology has to be developed taking into account the REACH methodology to expand the list of banned substances.

EBFRIP believes that there should be alignment with REACH in particular when interpreting concepts like risk, adequate control and the procedures by which they are correctly applied. Therefore, RoHS should not go beyond what REACH provides considering that REACH is already based on the precautionary principle.

The basis for any restriction should be only the risk to health or environment that a substance poses in WEEE or the risk that it poses to the "environmentally sound recovery and disposal" of WEEE.

Following this report, a next meeting at Council Working group level will take place on 14 January 2010. The Spanish Presidency is aiming to reach a political agreement before the end of its mandate in July 2010.

For more info:

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/09/st17/st17433.en09.pdf>

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/09/st17/st17433-ad01.en09.pdf>

About EBFRIP and Brominated Flame Retardants

The European Brominated Flame Retardant Industry Panel represents the three main producers of brominated flame retardants, who are also major producers of alternative flame retardants based on phosphorus and mineral chemistry. Flame retardant manufacturing sites of EBFRIP member companies include those based in 5 EU Member States (France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom).

Brominated flame retardants are chemicals commonly used in the manufacture of many domestic and industrial appliances, for instance in 70% of electrical and electronic appliances for the purpose of fire safety. Flame retardants provide people with up to 15 times more escape time when there is a fire.

-Report ends-

^[1] Information from the Swedish Presidency on the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (RoHS)- recast- 14 December 2009.