

21 December 2004

Update on the latest EU Member State meeting of the EU RoHS Directive

At the latest meeting on 10th December, the EU Member States and the European Commission adopted the first set of amendments to be exempted from the Directive on the Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS)¹ in electrical and electronic equipment.

As expected, Deca-BDE's exemption from the RoHS Directive was not mentioned² during this meeting as this had already been reviewed at the previous meeting of the 22nd October. A note³ on the 22nd October meeting by the UK Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) indicated that a "second set of proposed exemptions would cover Deca-BDE" amongst other categories.

At the 10th December meeting, the Commission announced the launch of a new stakeholder consultation⁴ on additional potential exemptions only recently submitted by industry. This new consultation does not concern Deca-BDE as it was already included in such a consultation back in July when more than 85% of the stakeholders responding fully supported Deca-BDE's exemption from the RoHS Directive⁵.

According to the DTI's report of the 10th December meeting, the Commission indicated that the additional exemptions and the set of exemptions including Deca-BDE "should be combined for a possible vote in either February or March".

Should you need further information, please contact EBFRIP at +32 2 676 73 38 or at rmo@cefic.be.

¹ The text of the Directive can be viewed at:

http://www.bsef-site.com/regulation/eu_legislation/doc%20%20rohs.pdf

² The note of the 10th December meeting is available on the DTI website at

http://www.dti.gov.uk/sustainability/weee/TAC_10_December.pdf

³ The note of the 22nd October meeting is available on the DTI website at:

http://www.dti.gov.uk/sustainability/weee/TAC_22_October.pdf

⁴ Further details on the 2nd Commission consultation can be found at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/consultations_en.htm

⁵ Further details on the 1st Commission consultation and the stakeholder replies can be found at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/waste/weee_index.htm