

## EU exempts Deca-BDE from RoHS Directive

*Decision enables continued use of the flame retardant Deca-BDE  
in electrical and electronics products*

(Brussels, 17 October 2005) In a Decision published on 15 October 2005<sup>1</sup>, the EU has exempted Deca-BDE from the EU's Directive on the Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS)<sup>2</sup>. This Decision follows an intensive review of all the available information and is the final step in the RoHS regulatory procedure for adopting exemptions.

EBFRIP welcomes this EU decision, which has immediate effect and enables the continued use of Deca-BDE, a highly-effective flame retardant whose use saves lives and reduces fire-related injuries.

The Commission's Decision was taken on the basis of the results of a ten-year EU risk assessment which evaluated 588 studies and concluded that the use of Deca-BDE does not pose health or environmental risks.<sup>3</sup> The Decision also supports the majority opinion of EU Member States which, on 2 September 2005, voted on the exemption of Deca-BDE with more than twice the number of votes for than against.

"This Decision is well-supported by science", declared Dr Dieter Drohmann, EBFRIP Chairman, "It is reassuring news for electronics manufacturers worldwide who use Deca-BDE as their flame retardant of choice. They can now confidently continue to use Deca-BDE, the most tested flame retardant, for the European market. It provides a predictable business environment and contributes to greater competitiveness in Europe and elsewhere."

On fire safety, Dr Drohmann added: "The use of this flame retardant makes a huge contribution to fire safety – many lives have been saved and the incidence of related injuries reduced. The EU's Decision comes at a time when there is growing recognition for greater fire safety measures in Europe."

Deca-BDE is a brominated flame retardant used to prevent ignition and slow the spread of fires in the plastic components of electrical and electronics equipment, as well as in the textiles and transportation industries.

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Decision of 13 October 2005 amending for the purposes of adapting to the technical progress the Annex to Directive 2002/95/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment, OJ L271 of 15 October 2005, page 48. Please see document at: [http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2005/l\\_271/l\\_27120051015en00480050.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2005/l_271/l_27120051015en00480050.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Directive 2002/95/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 January 2003 on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment, OJ L37, page 19, 13 February 2003.

<sup>3</sup> The exemption of Deca-BDE applications in plastics complies with the procedure established in Paragraph 10 of the Annex to the RoHS Directive, which states: "Within the procedure referred to in Article 7(2), the Commission shall evaluate the applications for: Deca-BDE, (...) as a matter of priority in order to establish as soon as possible whether these items are to be amended accordingly."