

An Overview of the Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Regulations

Introduction

The “RoHS2” Directive 2011/65/EU has been transposed into UK law via The Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2012 (the RoHS Regulations). The regulations aim to reduce harm to the environment and human health by restricting the use of certain hazardous substances during manufacture of electrical and electronic equipment.

Who is Affected?

Organisations will be affected by the regulations if they carry out the following:

- Manufacture electrical and electronic equipment
- Import electrical and electronic equipment
- Distribute electrical and electronic equipment

The restricted substances and the agreed limits are:

- Lead (0.1% by weight)
- Cadmium (0.01% by weight)
- Mercury (0.1% by weight)
- Hexavalent chromium (0.1% by weight)
- Polybrominated biphenyls (PBB) (0.1% by weight)
- Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE) (0.1% by weight)

Please note that 4 phthalates are to be added to the restricted substances from 22 July 2019 for all EEE and from 2021 for medical devices/ monitoring and control instruments these include

- bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) (0.1% by weight)
- butyl benzyl phthalate (BBP) (0.1% by weight)
- dibutyl phthalate (DBP) (0.1% by weight)
- diisobutyl phthalate (DIBP) (0.1% by weight)

What Do You Need To Do?

RoHS is a self-declaration directive which doesn't detail specific processes to become compliant. It is expected that businesses will use due diligence to implement the most relevant compliance process. Businesses are required to assess the levels of restricted substances in products and components and ensure they do not exceed the limits and maintain records to demonstrate the products' compliance. Common methods of compliance include:

- Product testing – to assess levels of restricted substances.

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- Compliance declarations – requesting a Declaration of Compliance from the manufacturer of products and components and maintain on file
- Product labelling – RoHS is a CE Marking Directive. All products that are in scope of RoHS should be RoHS compliant (and any other applicable standards) and have the CE mark affixed

Useful Links

[The Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2012](#)

[The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment \(Amendment\) Regulations 2014](#)

[Directive 2011/65/EU on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment](#)

(The link to the Directive directs you to the page on Eur Lex, however to ensure that you fulfil all requirements please ensure you also take account of the “Relationship between documents” section and in particular the “Amended by” sub-section which can be found by ensuring you are using the “Document information” tab (at the top of the page) and scrolling down.)

Contact Us

We offer a range of services to assist companies with RoHS compliance. If you would like more information about how we can help you, please call us on **03450 682 572** or email info@valpak.co.uk.

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