

New Provisions for Electrical and Electronic Equipment

Conformity of AluFinish products with the guidelines 2002/95/EC and 2002/96/EC

Directive 2002/95/EC (RoHS – Restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment) dated 27 January 2003 restricts, with effect from 1 July 2006, the use of certain substances in electrical and electronic equipment (with the exception of certain intended purposes listed in the Annex of the Directive).

The restricted substances are: lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, polybrominated biphenyl (PBB), and polybrominated diphenyl ether (PBDE).

Directive 2002/96/EC (WEEE) and the amending directive 2003/108/EC aim at minimising waste electrical and electronic equipment. In addition, it promotes the recycling, reuse and recovery of such equipment. Different recovery rates have been established for different product groups, which must be achieved by 31 June 2006. Manufacturers must ensure the collection, treatment, and recovery of the devices listed in Annex IA of the WEEE, which were placed on the market after 13 August 2005.

By passing the Electrical and Electronic Equipment Act (Elektro- und Elektronikgerätegesetz – ElektroG), Germany has implemented both the RoHS and the WEEE.

Amendment of RoHS Directive

The new Directive 2011/65/EU for restricting the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (RoHS) was published in the EU Gazette on 01/07/2011, replacing the previous Directive 2002/95/EC of 27/01/2003.

This new Directive has to be implemented in the national laws of the EU member states by 02/01/2013. Until then, the current national provisions for implementing Directive 2002/95/EC remain applicable in the respective version.

This amendment to the RoHS Directive does not incorporate any additional banned substances (see above), although it does extend their range of application.

In principle, all eleven equipment categories are enumerated in Appendix 1 of Directive 2011/65/EU. The new category No. 11 is of particular significance: "Other electrical or electronic devices that are not allocated to any of the already specified categories". All cables with a nominal voltage of less than 250 V are now expressly included in this range of application.

Decisions on new banned substances are to be taken during the three years after the Directive 2011/65/EU comes into force. Candidates for this are in particular hexabromocyclododecane (HBCDD), bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (DEHP), benzyl butyl phthalate (BBP) and dibutyl phthalate (DBP). In the coming three years it is also intended to investigate the health risks arising from nanosubstances.

Exceptions to the already existing utilisation bans on lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, PBB and PBDE have been summarised in Appendices III and IV of the new Directive and are to be adapted at regular intervals to advancements in technology and science.

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In addition, the amendment is intended as a harmonisation with EU Directive No. 1907/2006 (REACH) by providing a more efficient mechanism for reviewing and amending the list of banned substances.

The definition for “homogeneous substance” has been supplemented and the term “economic actor” – incorporating manufacturers, authorised agents, importers and distributors – has been added.

Articles 7 to 18 are also completely new. These articles have been added to extend the provisions regarding conformity assessment, CE marking and market control for all equipment and devices that are subject to the RoHS Directive. The relevant obligations for manufacturers, and possibly for authorised agents, importers and distributors (e.g. also for ID markings on devices, product recalls and documentation), are listed here in detail.

Amendment of WEEE Directive

Agreement has not yet been reached on the amendment to the Waste Electric and Electronic Equipment Ordinance (WEEE).

Conformity of AluFinish products with Directives 2002/95/EG and 2002/96/EG

Certain AluFinish products are and were used in the manufacture of electrical and electronic equipment for metal processing.

With the exception of the chromatings and special passivations (Alfipas 720, Alfipas 721, Alfipas 724, Alfipas 724/2, Alfipas 725, Alficoat 771, Alficoat 791) all AluFinish products already comply with the RoHS Directive.

Are you interested in chrome-free pre-treatment?

Please do not hesitate to contact our application technology department and lab if you have any questions. The phone number is +49 2632 9297-20.