14 June 2019

Compliance of RoHS3 2015/863 Directive

Restriction of Hazardous Substances

The RoHS3 directive is first of all a European Community Directive which comes into force on 22 July 2019.

It defines the restrictions in the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment.

Compliance with the RoHS directive is a very ambitious project and a real challenge for the electrical and electronics industry. The original purpose was to completely eliminate the dangerous substances from the products. Later, it was realized that this goal could not be achieved, since it proved impossible to completely do without these substances in some areas. This is why an agreement was found in establishing clearly defined limit values.

The most important and most frequent substances are lead and so-called “flame retardants”.

List of substances that can be contained in products up to a precise limit value:

- Lead
- Mercury
- Cadmium
- Hexavalent chromium
- Polybrominated biphenyl ethers (PBB)
- Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE)
- Bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP)
- Butyl benzyl phthalate (BBP)
- Dibutyl phthalate (DBP)
- Diisobutyl phthalate (DIBP)
The limit values established are the following:

- A maximum of 0.01% (weight percent) of cadmium
- A maximum of 0.1% (weight percent) of lead, mercury, hexavalent chromium, PBB and PBDE, DEHP, BBP, DBP, DIBP.

What does this mean in practice for manufacturers and suppliers of electrical and electronic equipment?

Very simple: to declare a product “RoHS compliant”, these substances can be contained in the product only within the established limits, with the exemptions as per Annex III of the Directive 2011/65.

Previous categories listed by previous RoHS (2002/95) directive:

1. Large household appliances.
2. Small household appliances.
3. IT and telecommunications equipment.
4. Consumer equipment.
5. Lighting equipment.
6. Electrical and electronic tools.
7. Toys, leisure and sports equipment.
8. Medical devices.
9. Monitoring and control instruments including industrial monitoring and control instruments.
10. Automatic dispensers.

Further category introduced by RoH2 (2011/65) directive:

11. Other EEE (electrical and electronic equipment) not covered by any of the ten above categories.
Mecc Alte indicates that individual products are RoHS compliant through the CE Declaration of Conformity despatched with each machine.

The Declarations of all plants have been amended accordingly: