

1.

EU ROHS exemption, definition changes to impact restricted substances, design requirements!

欧盟RoHS豁免，定义改变将影响限用物质和设计需求！

- The European Commission (EC) is examining the directive's current 29 exemptions!
- If it deems the 29 exemptions are no longer required because substitutes now exist, the commission will delete them!



- 欧洲委员会 (EC) 正在对该指令中的29个豁免项目进行审核!
- 如果结果表明因为替代品的存在而不再需要此29个豁免项目，委员会将予以删除!

The EC (European Commission) is set to adjust the EU (European Union) ROHS (restriction-of-hazardous-substances) directive this year to reflect additional substances and changes to exemptions.

ROHS is currently under a scheduled review, as Article 6 of the directive requires. The EC is examining the directive's current 29 exemptions, plus an additional seven requested exemptions; categories 8 and 9 of the directive, which include effects of materials on medical devices and monitoring and control instruments; and some definitions within the directive.

The EC will review each of the 29 exemptions, and, if it deems they are no longer required because substitutes now exist, the commission will delete them, according to Gary Nevison, Newark's customer interface on legislation that affects the electronics industry. "If the consultants doing this review find alternatives, but receive no input from manufacturers who cannot replace ROHS substances, the exemptions will be deleted. It's important for all manufacturers who rely on the exemptions to submit the required technical data to the EC."

Nevison maintains that, although the EC is reviewing all 29 exemptions, it isn't certain that the commission will delete any. He notes lead in ceramics and lead in the glass of electronic components as examples. "In Europe, many passive components are compliant simply because they have that exemption."

When the EU first laid out ROHS, it included eight of the 10 product categories in WEEE (waste electrical and electronic equipment), the EU recycling directive. However, it excluded two categories, 8 and 9, because of concern over the reliability of substituted materials, especially lead-free solders, according to an EC-commissioned report on the product categories. Health and safety risks are paramount in these categories, which influence products in the medical and health-care fields, as well as test equipment.

"The recommendation to the EC is that these two categories will be added to the scope of ROHS," Nevison says. "This review is going to lead to further additional components, [and] a larger set of product categories. ... The EC [will then look] at adding extra substances beyond the original six [lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, polybrominated biphenyls, and polybrominated diphenyl ether]."

“Obviously, this [development] is very significant,” he continues, noting flame retardants; arsenic, which can be in infrared LEDs, some ICs, and alloys; and substances such as beryllium, which can be in springs, as possible additional substances.

Additionally, the EC is looking into clarifying some of the product definitions within the directive that have caused gray areas. Nevison cites “fixed installation,” a product that would be left behind because it is fixed or permanent, such as a boiler or an air-conditioning system. “It is possible that there will be no exemptions for fixed installations, so products that we felt didn’t fall within scope may well [be there],” he says.

The EC has finished the reviews of categories 8 and 9, and you can expect the organization to announce results this year. Recommendations for these product categories call for significant time for manufacturers to embrace products; expect a suggested 2012 time frame for implementation. As to adding more substances to the ROHS directive’s restrictions, clarity of definitions will likely come out this year, and implementation could be in the near future, depending on manufacturer feedback.

Unfortunately, says Nevison, once the electronics supply chain moves through this stage, there will be additional reviews of the directive and more restrictions coming from other environmental regulations, such as China ROHS, an EU ROHS-like law set in China; REACH (regulation on registration, evaluation, authorization, and restriction of chemicals), an EU chemical-restriction directive; and Energy Using Products, an EU framework directive on eco-design.

A December 2007 Ernst and Young report stated that regulatory and compliance risk was the greatest strategic challenge facing global businesses in 2008. A JPMorgan Global Trade Services research note in December likewise stated that manufacturers are lagging in environmental compliance.

“After a lull of a year or more on legislation, everything is just moving so quickly, especially in Europe with the REACH chemical legislation. [It] is going to have a huge impact on industry and, to a lesser extent, Energy Using Products, and that [movement] will have the biggest impact on the design engineer,” Nevison says. “An awful lot of the focus of these directives is on the design stage. There are so many things for an engineer and a distributor to think about now. Once there was just ROHS and some recycling, but now, all of a sudden, we have all of these other things and so many of them different.”

Source: www.edn.com

2.

Packaging & WEEE: Ireland - Recycling slows down, more prevention needed says EPA!

包装&WEEE指令：爱尔兰-放慢循环处理速度，环保协会表明需要更多预防！

- The Irish EPA published its National Waste Report for 2006 in January!
- The EPA reports that the tonnage of packaging waste being recycled increased by 8% in 2006!



- 爱尔兰环保协会于一月份公布了2006年全国废物报告！
- 环保协会报告说，包装废物以重量计算2006年的循环处理率增加了百分之八！

The Irish EPA published its National Waste Report for 2006 in January. The recovery rate for municipal waste rose to 36.1% and the amount of waste diverted from landfill was up by 15%, but the total amount of waste generated also grew by more than 11%, so more waste was landfilled than in the previous year.

The EPA reports that the tonnage of packaging waste being recycled increased by 8% in 2006. Environment Minister John Gormley said "Although impressive, this is the lowest annual increase in packaging recycling observed in many years and in all likelihood reflects the difficulty in having to continually seek new (and more expensive) sources of packaging waste."

The report says that continued good progress in recycling is overshadowed by increased landfilling of packaging waste, and although the tonnage recycled increased, the percentage recycled fell from 59% in 2005 to 57% in 2006. This is still well in excess of the 2005 target of 50% recycling which indicates that the 2011 target of 60% should be achieved.

2006 was the first full year of implementation of the WEEE Directive and it was an outstanding success in terms of the quantities of WEEE that were recovered: approximately 7.4 kg per capita were recovered, way ahead of the 4 kg EU target.

"Ireland has made dramatic improvements in recycling in recent years, but we need a greater focus on prevention if we are to develop a more sustainable lifestyle, reduce reliance on landfill and meet challenging national and EU targets" said Mr Gormley.

Source: www.perchards.com

3.

Delphi Technologist Co-Edits New Book on Lead-Free!

Delphi 技术人员共同编辑一本关于无铅的新书籍!

- Delphi Electronics & Safety Division has co-edited a book on lead-free electronics!
- The implementation of lead-free solder into electronic assembly boards!



- Delphi 电子安全部门共同编辑了一本关于无铅电子产品的书籍!
- 实施电子装配板的无铅焊接!

Richard D. Parker, lead technologist for advanced assembly technologies at Delphi Electronics & Safety Division has co-edited a book on lead-free electronics. Released in October 2007, the book, Entitled Lead-Free Electronics: iNEMI Projects Lead to Successful Manufacturing, is based on a six-year study on lead-free electronics, and covers issues surrounding the implementation of lead-free solder into electronic assembly boards.

"We are especially proud to have Rich as one of the co-editors of this new book" said Bob Schumacher, Delphi Electronics & Safety director of Advanced Product & Business Development. "His work on lead-free solder is a pivotal piece in our vision to keep our products and processes focused on being environmentally friendly"

The book features contributions from several hundred researchers at more than 100 companies, universities and government agencies. It includes chapters by industry experts on lead-free processing and covers topics such as solder material properties, reliability testing, lead-free rework and tin whisker mitigation.

"Rich has been a valuable contributor to iNEMI's lead-free initiatives" said Jim McElroy, CEO of iNEMI. "He was not only instrumental in the publication of this book, but also in the work described by the book. His leadership and vision have been, and continue to be, integral to iNEMI's successes in this area."

Parker serves as the chair of the iNEMI (International Electronics Manufacturing Initiative) Tin Whisker Project, Phase II. Numerous electronic system failures have been attributed to short circuits caused by tin

whiskers that bridge closely-spaced circuit elements. Parker's team focuses on identifying the root causes of whiskers to minimize the risk of system failures.

Parker received a bachelor of science degree from the former General Motor's Institute in 1975 and has served in various engineering assignments at Delphi Electronics & Safety Division in Kokomo, Indiana.

Source: pcdandf.com