

Newsletter from November 8th, 2007

1. iNEMI publishes book about Lead-Free!

- *The International Electronics Manufacturing Initiative has announced publication of Lead-Free Electronics!*
- *This book makes the information they compiled available to the electronics industry at large!*

The International Electronics Manufacturing Initiative (iNEMI), an industry-led consortium focused on identifying and closing technology gaps, has announced publication of *Lead-Free Electronics: iNEMI Projects Lead to Successful Manufacturing*.

The book, published by Wiley-IEEE Press, is based on the results of iNEMI's more than six-year study into lead-free electronics, and it provides full coverage of the issues surrounding the implementation of Pb-free solder into electronic board assembly.

The movement to lead-free electronic assembly represented one of the greatest challenges ever to the electronics industry. For well over 50 years, eutectic tin-lead (SnPb) solder has been studied, categorized and optimized for electronics manufacturing applications. In a few short years, Pb-free solder assembly had to be put into wide-scale production, disrupting the status quo. Much of the work to rally the electronics industry to prepare for Pb-free assembly is described in this book.

"The iNEMI book is the first practical, primary reference to cover lead-free solder assembly as well as the analysis and reasoning behind the selection of tin-silver-copper as the recommended lead-free solder," said Jim McElroy, iNEMI CEO. "Data from several large reliability studies, including rework on standard and large boards, demonstrated the manufacturability of the recommended solder. This book is a 'must read' for assembly professionals."

Lead-Free Electronics: iNEMI Projects Lead to Successful Manufacturing features chapters by some of the industry's leading experts on Pb-free processing and covers such topics as solder material properties, reliability testing, lead-free rework, tin whisker mitigation strategies and more.

"This book is the result of the commitment and dedication of many iNEMI members," said McElroy. "It represents contributions from several hundred researchers at more than 100 companies, universities and government agencies. Through collaborative projects, iNEMI members were able to benefit from the combined efforts of many industry experts working together for the common good, thus minimizing the investment of any particular company. This book makes the information they compiled available to the electronics industry at large."

About the Editors

Edwin Bradley is a distinguished member of the technical staff with Motorola Advanced Product Technology Center in Plantation, Florida. He has extensive experience evaluating the materials, assembly processes, and reliability of portable electronic products, with an emphasis on lead-free soldering; and he chaired the first iNEMI lead-free project.

Carol A. Handwerker is a professor of materials engineering at Purdue University. She was chief metallurgist at NIST before joining Purdue. She is also a member of the iNEMI Technical and Research committees. Jasbir Bath is lead process engineer at Solectron Technical Centre in Milpitas, California. He has been chair of various iNEMI lead-free efforts.

Richard D. Parker has spent nearly 40 years at Delphi Electronics & Safety in Kokomo, Indiana. He has been active in iNEMI since its inception and currently chairs the iNEMI tin whisker team.

Ronald W. Gedney retired as vice president of operations at iNEMI and remains on as a consultant. A fellow of the IEEE, he is also a past president of the IEEE Components, Packaging, and Manufacturing Technology (CPMT) Society.

Source: evertiq.com

2. WEEE: Bulgaria!

- *The official data from the Bulgarian Executive Environmental Agency shows only partly the figures of EEE put on the market and WEEE collected!*
- *More companies are expected to make reports this year!*

The official data from the Bulgarian Executive Environmental Agency (EEA) shows unfortunately only partly the figures of EEE put on the market (POM) and WEEE collected. Generally, there is an obligation of importers/producers of EEE and of collectors to report to the EEA on a quarterly basis. Customs are obliged to provide information for the EEE imported, but there is no way for them to distinguish what quantities are B2B and what B2C.

The specific problems are the following:

2006:

The official data is for the second half of the year: 01.07.06 – 31.12.06. The Bulgarian law on WEEE, incl. reporting, is in force since 01.07.2006. In the 3rd quarter, when the system began, only a few Bulgarian companies were known which reported the data correctly. In the 4th quarter more companies did the reporting, but only a few of them were local producers. Customs collected and reported data for import together B2B plus B2C.

2007:

The data is for the first half of the year: 01.01.07 – 30.06.07 (first and second quarter). As the deadline for the reporting for the 3rd quarter was 10.10.07, the results are expected soon.

Since 1 January 2007 Bulgaria is a full member of the EU. The law obliges the importers, but in reality only EEE from members outside the EU are seen as imported. This gap allows “importers” from the EU to go round the law. Customs collect and report data for the real import (from non-EU members) together B2B plus B2C. The data are the following:

2006:

(Official number of population by 31 December 2005 was 7 718 750)

EEE put on the market:

B2C – 8 863,012 tons
B2B – 698,925 tons
Joint quantity (B2B and B2C) – 76 062 tons (reported by customs)
General sum 85 623,937 tons

WEEE collected
B2C – 2 032,739 tons
B2B – 1 122,464 tons
General sum 3 155,203 tons

2007:

(Official number of population by 31 December 2006 was 7 679 290)

EEE put on the market:
B2C – 2 483,141 tons
B2B – 1 912,077 tons
Joint quantity (B2B and B2C) – 20 333 tons (reported by customs)
General sum 24 728,218 tons

WEEE collected
B2C – 6 319,567 tons
B2B – 299,7705 tons
General sum 6 619,3375 tons

As you can see, the data is not reliable: It is not possible the EEE put on the market in the second half of 2006 is 3,5 times more than the quantities during the first half of 2007.

There is more logic in the reporting of the WEEE collected. More companies are expected to make reports this year.

Source: KERP

3. German WEEE register to reduce fees by 40 per cent!

- *The German WEEE register EAR is planning to significantly lower its fees as of 1 January 2008!*
- *This is the second time in two years that EAR fees have been lowered!*

The German WEEE register EAR is planning to significantly lower its fees as of 1 January 2008. The proposal is currently being reviewed by German legislators.

The rates are set to sink by about 40 per cent. The basic registration would then cost €90 instead of the current €150, while the cost of registering a brand would drop from €80 to €50. The annual updating of volumes would cost €115 next year, compared to €193 at the present time. The charge for pick-up appointments would be reduced from €52 to €32.

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On the other hand, it would become more difficult to attain exemptions from the registration fees as of 1 January. For example, producers of televisions would only be exempt if they brought less than 120 kg of TVs on the market over the course of the year, the current limit is 200 kg.

This is the second time in two years that EAR fees have been lowered. The German environment ministry (BMU) said that newest rollback could be attributed to the fact that the calculation of the fees could be based on actual values from previous experience and that significantly lower overall costs were expected in the future. However, the ministry said it was unlikely that there would be further fee reductions. The rate structure would be regularly reviewed in future but no annual adjustments were planned.

Source: EUWID