

Study to assess four renewals requests for RoHS 2 Annex III exemptions no. 7(b), no. 9(b), no. 13(a) and no. 13(b)

Project Description Pack 7 – 2015

Oeko-Institut e.V. - Institute for Applied Ecology, Germany (Project Management, Partner)

Carl-Otto Gensch

Yifaat Baron

Katja Moch

Fraunhofer Institute for Reliability and Microintegration IZM (Partner)

Dr. Otmar Deubzer

Eunomia Research & Consulting (Peer Review)

Adrian Gibbs

Oeko-Institut e.V.

Freiburg Head Office

P.O. Box 17 71
79017 Freiburg, Germany

Street Address

Merzhauser Str. 173
79100 Freiburg

Phone +49 (0) 761 – 4 52 95-0

Fax +49 (0) 761 – 4 52 95-288

Darmstadt Office

Rheinstr. 95
64295 Darmstadt, Germany

Phone +49 (0) 6151 – 81 91-0

Fax +49 (0) 6151 – 81 91-133

Berlin Office

Schicklerstr. 5-7
10179 Berlin, Germany

Phone +49 (0) 30 – 40 50 85-0

Fax +49 (0) 30 – 40 50 85-388

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1 Background

The RoHS Directive (2002/95/EC) (RoHS 1) has been recasted and has now become Directive 2011/65/EU that entered into force on 21 July 2011, repealing Directive 2002/95/EC on 3 January 2013. The RoHS Directive (2011/65/EU) on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment requires “that EEE placed on the market, including cables and spare parts for its repair, its reuse, updating of its functionalities or upgrading of its capacity, does not contain the substances listed in Annex II” (i.e. lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, polybrominated biphenyls and polybrominated diphenyl ethers). These provisions “shall not apply to the applications listed in Annexes III and IV” (Article 4). These Annexes are to be adapted to scientific and technical progress on the basis of the provisions listed in Article 5.

With the contract No. 07.020/ETU/2014/697131/ENV.A.2 implementing Framework Contract No. ENV.C.2/FRA/2011/0020, a consortium led by Eunomia Research & Consulting has been requested by DG Environment of the European Commission to provide technical and scientific support for the evaluation of exemption requests under the new RoHS 2 regime. The work is being undertaken by the Oeko-Institut and Fraunhofer IZM and shall be peer reviewed by Eunomia Research & Consulting. The work has been requested in view of providing technical and scientific support for the evaluation of applications for granting, renewing or revoking an exemption to be included in or deleted from Annexes III and IV of the new RoHS Directive 2011/65/EU (RoHS 2).

2 Objectives

The objectives of this project can be outlined as follows:

- Provide a dedicated website which ensures that involved stakeholders will receive all necessary information and can contribute to online consultations (<http://rohs.exemptions.oeko.info>);
- Execute a clear technical and scientific assessment on whether requests for new exemptions are justified in line with the criteria given in Article 5(1)(a);
- Provide for the involvement and consultation of stakeholders (inter alia producers of electrical and electronic materials, components and equipment, recyclers, treatment operators, environmental organisations, employee and consumer associations), according to Article 5(7);
- Provide a clear and unambiguous wording for the preparation of a Draft Commission Decision for those exemptions, where on the basis of the result of the consultation and the evaluation, an exemption can be justified.

3 Scope

In agreement with the Commission, two exemption requests will be evaluated. Table 1 gives an overview on the requests, covering the use of lead and cadmium.

Table 1 Exemption requests that will be evaluated during this project in order of date of submission.

No.	Proposed Wording	Date of Submission	Applicant
7b	Lead in solders for RF switching matrices and associated RF signal distribution equipment for telecommunications	10.11.2014	Quintech Electronics & Communications, Inc.
9b	Lead in bearing shells and bushes for refrigerant-containing compressors, with a stated electrical power input of only 9 kW or lower for the HVACR industry, with expiry date three years after the publication of the amended RoHS Annex	07.10.2014	Emerson Climate Technologies
13a	Lead in white glasses used for optical applications	11.11.2014	Spectaris
13b	Cadmium and Lead in filter glasses and glasses used for reflectance standards	11.11.2014	Spectaris

4 Project set-up

The overall project is led by Carl-Otto Gensch. At Fraunhofer IZM the contact person is Otmar Deubzer. The project team at Oeko-Institut consists of the technical experts Yifaat Baron and Katja Moch.

The exemption evaluation will be performed in close co-operation with the European Commission and stakeholders (electrical and electronic industry and its associations, NGOs, independent experts etc.). This includes:

- Central communication access for stakeholders via the project-specific e-mail account rohs.exemptions@oeko.de;
- Project-specific website at <http://rohs.exemptions.oeko.info/> where relevant documents and project activities will be published;
- Information for stakeholders via website and via mailing lists for which stakeholders can register;
- Preparation and management of stakeholder consultations on new exemption requests via project website;
- Technical and scientific evaluation of stakeholder input and further procedure for receiving a sound basis with a high level quality of data and information and for cross-checking information for technical correctness and confidentiality issues;
- Stakeholder workshop or meetings where necessary.

5 Time schedule

Assignment of project tasks to Oeko-Institut and Fraunhofer IZM started 29 December 2014 and will run over a period of 9 months, thus ending 28 September 2015. An interim report

shall be delivered to the European Commission during February. The final report is due at the end of the project.

The stakeholder consultation is planned to start in March 2015. If a stakeholder workshop is appropriate it will take place in winter 2015.