

RoHS Directive 2011/65/EU and 2015/863/EU (ROHS III)

Dear Customers,

EU Directive 2015/863/EU (RoHS III) updates Directive 2011/65/EU on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment.

In Germany, the Directive is implemented by the Electrical and Electronic Equipment Substances Ordinance (Elektro- und Elektronikgeräte- Stoff- Verordnung – ElektroStoff V). Under this ordinance, electrical and electronic equipment, including cables and spare parts, may not be placed on the market if they contain >0.1 percent by weight lead, mercury, hexavalent chromium, PBB, PBDE, DEHP, BBP, DBP, DIBP or >0.01 percent by weight cadmium per homogeneous material.

Exemption provisions exist for several substances and alloys. For example, the exemptions that apply to lead as an alloying element are as stated in Annex III:

- 6a. I (steel max. 0.35%, hot-dip galvanised steel max. 0.2%)
- 6b. I/II (aluminium alloys max. 0.4%)
- 6c. (copper alloys max. 4%)

As these exemptions expire in July 2021, applications for the renewal of the above-named exemptions were drawn up and submitted to the EU Commission in time by the coalition of international trade associations, the "ROHS Umbrella Industry Project". The exemptions therefore remain valid until the assessment process is completed. If rejected, the exemptions expire twelve months at the earliest and 18 months at the latest, after the date of the decision.

In preparation for the expiry of the exemptions, EAW checked alternative copper alloys with a lead content <0.1% compared to the standard copper alloy used with lead content 3% for their usability. As a result, we are already able to offer you use of these alternative alloys. Taking into account the higher material, production and processing costs for the alternative alloys, adjusted product prices result. If necessary, please draw up an individual enquiry for products with alternative alloys.

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Management

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