



Proposed Bill Broadens Scope of California RoHS

Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances (RoHS) regulations were adopted into California law (SB 20) in September 2003 and go into effect January 1, 2007. The regulations, banning the sale of certain electronic devices containing any of four heavy metals, are based generally on the European Union RoHS Directive 2002/95/EC, but are more limited in scope.

Recently, the California legislature has proposed to amend this law with Assembly Bill (AB 2202), which includes a significantly broader definition of "electronic devices" than in the existing law, in order to mirror the requirements of the European Union RoHS. Essentially, the bill if passed, would include *all* electrical and electronic equipment categories covered by EU RoHS. In May, the Bill passed the State Assembly and is now pending in the Senate, with an effective date of January 1, 2010.

Requirements Under California RoHS (SB20) Effective January 2007

Under the initial California RoHS regulations, only the following "electronic devices" would need to be in compliance by January 1, 2007:

- Cathode ray tubes (CRT), CRT containing devices, computer monitors containing CRTs, televisions containing CRTs
- Laptop computers containing liquid crystal display (LCD), televisions containing LCD screens, LCD containing desktops
- Plasma televisions

The electronic devices must meet the following limits for heavy metals:

- Lead (0.1% Maximum Concentration Value)
- Mercury (0.1% MCV)
- Cadmium (0.01% MCV)
- Hexavalent chromium (0.1% MCV)

Note: The European Union restricts these four metals, plus the brominated flame retardants, PBB and PBDE, which California does not regulate. (Summary of the California Regulations:

<http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Ewaste/>)

2010 Requirements Under the Proposed New California RoHS Bill (AB 2202)

The amended regulations essentially tie California provisions to future decisions and amendments under EU RoHS. The Bill also allows time extensions for compliance, in the event that products that were initially exempt under EU RoHS are later added.

- Non-EU RoHS compliant products cannot be sold in California.
- Any electronic devices exempt under EU RoHS, will be exempt in California.
- Maintains the heavy metal limits cited above, but does not mirror EU restrictions for flame retardants PBB or PBDE.

(Text of Proposed Assembly Bill 2202:

http://www.rsjtechnical.com/images/Documents/AB_2202_Toxic_Electronics_Phaseout.pdf)

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For More Information

Greater China: Catherine Chen, catherine.chen@cn.bureauveritas.com, +86 21 6605 8286, ext 142

France: Valentine Menuet, valentine.menuet@lcie.fr, +33 (0)1 40 95 63 57

Germany: Wolfgang Kruschak, wolfgang.kruschak@de.bureauveritas.com, +49 40-530 2084 20

UK: Chris Baird, electrical@uk.bureauveritas.com, +44 (0) 7966 586140

USA: Jim Lewis, james.lewis@us.bureauveritas.com +1(978) 486-8880

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