



WELL-INFORMED CIRCLES

ELECTRICAL

ROHS

SUBSTANCES

RESTRICTED SUBSTANCES

New restrictions for phthalates in 2019

The RoHS Directive 2011/65/EU ensures that 'electrical and electronic equipment' or 'EEE', including cables and spare parts, does not contain restricted hazardous substances.

These restricted substances are listed in Annex II of the ROHS Directive.

Directive (EU) 2015/863 amends Annex II with four substances.

The available evidence indicates that those four substances, when used in EEE, can have a negative impact on recycling and on human health and the environment. According to the EU alternatives are available that have less negative impacts than these substances: DEHP, BBP, DBP and DIBP. Sufficient time is available to change to the alternatives, the enforcement date of the new restrictions is **22 July 2019**.

The current restrictions of four heavy metals and two families of flame retardants (PBBs and PBDEs) are:

- 0,1% for Lead;
- 0,1% for Mercury;
- 0,01% for Cadmium;
- 0,1% for Hexavalent chromium;
- 0,1% for PBB (Polybrominated biphenyls);
- 0,1% for PBDE (Polybrominated diphenyl ethers).

The new restrictions per 22 July 2019 will be:

- 0,1% for DEHP (Bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate);
- 0,1% for BBP (Butyl benzyl phthalate);
- 0,1% for DBP (Dibutyl phthalate);
- 0,1% for DIBP (Diisobutyl phthalate).

Electrical toys

The restrictions for phthalates BBP, DBP, and DEHP are not applicable to electrical and electronic toys because the three phthalates are already restricted under entry 51 of Annex XVII to the REACH Regulation.

ROHS SYMBOLS

Not allowed any more

The RoHS Directive 2011/65/EU entered into force in 2013. Since then RoHS is a mandatory part of CE marking. As a consequence of the mandatory CE marking other markings are prohibited. This means that the popular "self-made or ad-hoc" RoHS symbols are no longer allowed.

The FAQ on the ROHS Directive states the following answer to the question "Can I have any RoHS marks other than the CE mark?":

CE marking shall be the only marking which attests the conformity of the product. Markings, signs or inscriptions that are likely to mislead third parties regarding the meaning or form of the CE marking shall be prohibited.

This means that other symbols are not allowed.



This answer from the European Commission is based on New Legislative Framework (NLF) Regulation (EC) 765/2008, specifically article 30.4 and article 30.5 about general principles of the CE marking.

Market Surveillance authorities have already withdrawn products from the market with these symbols, so get rid of them today and affix only CE.