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European Union Directive 2002/95 EEC-Restriction of the use of certain Hazardous Substances in electrical and electronic equipment (RoHS) directive

Dear Valued Customer,

We wish to inform you of the latest status regarding RoHS for Cadmium in opto-electronic components. A number of component manufacturers as well as system manufacturers have applied or written in support of an exemption for Cadmium compounds in opto-electronic devices. Further to the initial request for exemption there has been a subsequent request specifically exempting Cd in optocouplers for audio applications.

This is on the basis that no other solution is available or possible.

Referring to the commission decision of Oct. 21st 2005; certain materials and components should be exempt (or continue to be exempt) from the prohibition, since the use of these hazardous substances in those specific materials and components is still unavoidable.

Based upon the final application defined by WEEE Annex 1a, product category 8 & 9 are excluded from the scope of RoHS.

Article 2.1 WEEE defines a general exclusion for equipment that is part of another type of equipment that is outside the scope of WEEE which could include fixed installations.

For example, devices for burner controls and associated equipment could be rated as non-electric devices because their main functionality is not given by electric power and thus be outside the scope of RoHS.

We are requesting that all of our customers verify the individual status of their products. Guidance can be obtained by visiting any of the following websites:

Europe

http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/waste/weee_index.htm

BMU: Hinweise zum ElektroG

<http://www.bmu.de/abfallwirtschaft/downloads/doc/35687.php>

RoHS:

Entscheidungshilfe des ZVEI

<http://www.zvei.org/index.php?id=16>

DTI-Guide for RoHS

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/sustainability/weee/>

<http://www.ipc.org>

<http://www.boulder.nist.gov/div853/lead%20free/props01.html>

http://www.inemi.org/cms/projects/ese/tin_whisker_usergroup.html

<http://www.buyusa.gov/europeanunion>

Customers should review their product with respect to...

- Is my product in Category 8 (medical devices) or 9 (monitoring and control instruments)?
- Is my product part of an excluded fixed installation?
- Is electricity not the primary power source of my final product?

The industry is expending considerable efforts to ensure the key and vital continuity of CdS/CdSe in opto-electronic components (photoconductive cells and optocouplers). Please support the initiative by writing to the European Commission before May 15, 2006.

Your statement should reference the ongoing stakeholder consultation:

http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/env/dir_2002_95/library?l=/requests_exemptions/electronic_components&vm=detailed&sb=Title

Key points to consider in your supporting statement:

- Only photocells match the spectral sensitivity of human eyes. Other detectors require significant electronic processing and power and still achieve inadequate performance.
- Silicon devices cannot be used directly in AC circuits and high voltage applications.
- The additional circuitry requirements will generate a significant incremental ecological burden (footprint, energy, disposal) to the environment.
- In audio applications, CdS/CdSe optocouplers have no substitute as the applications rely upon the passive and low-ohmic signal path for audio transparency and HF suppression. The opto-couplers are unique and provide unique sonic properties.
- There is no substitute in form and function available to provide spectral/electrical characteristics of the particular opto-electronic component.

Your support is essential to guarantee continued use in your application beyond July 2006. Your submission is requested to be handed in before May 15th, 2006.

Thank you for your support in this most important issue.

Sincerely,



Fred P. Rohrbacher
V.P. & General Manager