

Questionnaire Exemption Request No. 18

“Lead used in compliant pin connector systems for use in monitoring and control instruments (Category 9)”

Background

The Test and Measurement Coalition (TMC) applies for an exemption for “Lead used in compliant pin connector systems for use in monitoring and control instruments (Category 9)”.

A very similar exemption was reviewed in 2008 resulting in its inclusion into Annex III of RoHS II:

- 11(a) Lead used in C-press compliant pin connector systems; the exemption expired on 23 September 2010 and may still be used in spare parts for EEE placed on the market before 24 September 2010
- 11(b) Lead used in other than C-press compliant pin connector systems Expires on 1 January 2013 and after that date may be used in spare parts for EEE placed on the market before 1 January 2013

The relevant excerpt of the final report is available on the project website at <http://rohs.exemptions.oeko.info/index.php?id=124>.

Category 9 equipment will be included into the scope of the RoHS Directive starting on 22 July 2014 and 22 July 2017 respectively for industrial monitoring and control instruments. If the exemption were to be adopted, it would be included into Annex IV of RoHS II and expire on 22 July 2021¹, unless an earlier expiry date is set.

The applicant justifies the exemption request with the following technical, scientific and socioeconomic arguments:

¹ Due to a standard 7 year validity period for category 9 exemptions as stated in Article 5 (2) of Directive 2011/65/EU

- a) The long-term reliability of all alternatives to compliant pin connector systems has not been fully evaluated for category 9 applications. These products have a long life time of 10 years on average; therefore substitutes should be tested not only for meeting reliability requirements but also for long term performance, going substantially beyond those of consumer goods applications.
- b) No suitable alternatives for category 9 applications have been found so far, despite of intensive research. Even if new alternatives become available, they will require extensive testing to verify their long-term reliability when used in category 9 products. Historically, material or component substitutions have been validated through a number of tests under extreme conditions. Testing programs can last one or two years.
- c) The additional time needed for adaptation and redesign of the sector's portfolios would be considerable causing massive withdrawal of products from the EU market. This would have very serious consequences, not only for Category 9 producers, but also on client industries which are of key importance for the EU economy and competitiveness such as communication, defence, research & development, aerospace, electronic manufacture, etc.

For details, please check the applicant's exemption request at <http://rohs.exemptions.oeko.info/index.php?id=124>. This exemption request has been subject to a first completeness and plausibility check. The applicant has been requested to answer additional questions and to provide additional information (c.f. link above).

In the document "[General comments to Oeko's questions.docx](#)", TMC justifies the exemption request with formal and procedural arguments. Such formal and procedural arguments cannot be taken into account during the evaluation by Öko-Institut and Fraunhofer IZM. Rather, the objective of this consultation and the review process is to collect and to evaluate information and evidence according to the criteria listed in Art. 5 (1) (a) of Directive 2011/65/EU (RoHS II), which you can download from here:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32011L0065:EN:NOT>.

If you would like to contribute to the stakeholder consultation, please answer the following questions:

Questions

1. Please state whether you either support the applicant's request or whether you would like to provide argumentation against the applicant's request. In both cases please provide detailed technical argumentation / evidence in line with the criteria in Art. 5 (1) (a) to support your statement.
2. The applicant asks for an extension of the exemption until 2021. Do you agree with this expiry date, or would an earlier expiry be feasible in case the exemption is justified?
3. Do you consider any other aspects or details to be of importance, which have not yet been taken into account?

Finally, please do not forget to provide **your contact details** (Name, Organisation, e-mail and phone number) so that Öko-Institut/Fraunhofer IZM can contact you in case there are questions concerning your contribution.