

**Amphenol Limited**  
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## **Subject: EU Directive 2002/95/EC (RoHS)**

### **To whom it may concern.**

Amphenol Limited have been requested by a number of parties to comment on its policy and its approach to implementing 'EU Directive 2002/95/EC on the Restrictions and use of certain Hazardous Substances in electrical and electronic equipment' dated 27 January 2003.

### **EU Directive requirement.**

The Directive requires that from 1st July 2006 the homogeneous materials within new electrical and electronic equipment falling under categories 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 10 in Annex 1A to the WEEE Directive (2002/96/ EC) must contain less than 0.1% by weight of Lead, Mercury, Hexavalent Chromium, Polybrominated Biphenyls (PBB) or Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDE) and less than 0.01% Cadmium. A short list of exemptions for the use of the above substances in specific items is given in the Annex to Directive 2002/95/EC. The Directive also allows some additional, broader, exemptions, for example: equipment used for military and aerospace.

### **EU Directive – present status**

In the UK it is Statutory Instrument 2008/37 (this replaced SI 2006/1463 on 1st February 2008) which transposes the requirements of Directive 2002/95/EC into UK law.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008, exemption 9a, which allowed Deca-BDE to be used in polymeric applications, was revoked - therefore Deca-BDE is now included as one of the PBDEs which must not exceed 0.1%.

### **Amphenol Limited Statement**

Although many of Amphenol Limited's products are outside the scope of Directive 2002/95/EC, as they are specifically manufactured for use in the Military or Aerospace sectors, Amphenol Limited and Amphenol Limited (Pyle National Division) are still committed to reducing or eliminating both hazardous and ozone depleting substances, using substitutes as and when they become available to the industry.

### **Statement on the specific materials stated in EU Directive 2002/95/EC**

**Lead** – The use of lead is subject to ongoing investigation by Amphenol Ltd across its present product ranges. Many customers in the Aerospace, Military and Transport sectors have requested that Amphenol Ltd continue to use 'leaded solder' for their specific applications and wherever possible, Amphenol Ltd will accommodate these requests.

**Mercury** - Amphenol Limited does not use mercury in the construction of its product ranges or knowingly introduce any Mercury content.

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**Cadmium** – The Cadmium plating applied to Amphenol Limited connectors and components is exempt from the RoHS Directive (exemption 8 in the Annex), except for those applications banned under Directive 91/338/EEC (amending Directive 76/769/EEC). However, it is necessary to use Hexavalent Chromium (see paragraph below) as a passivate on the cadmium plating, so the cadmium plating finish as a whole is not RoHS compliant.

Alternative plating finishes to Cadmium have been available from Amphenol Limited for a number of years, typical products being Zinc Cobalt (although this finish also has a Hexavalent Chromium passivation coating, so is not RoHS compliant), Nickel, Stainless Steel and Nickel Aluminium Bronze.

**Hexavalent Chromium** - Amphenol Limited presently uses Hexavalent Chromium, in conjunction with other chemicals, as a passivate on cadmium and zinc cobalt plating finishes to produce the black and ‘olive drab’ finishes generally required for the corrosion resistance, colouring and shell conductivity requirements for military applications. Chemical suppliers to Amphenol Limited have been searching, and continue to search, for an alternative chemical to replace the existing Hexavalent Chromium, but success at the present time is limited. Hence, products manufactured by Amphenol Limited that use Hexavalent Chrome as a passivate are not RoHS compliant.

## **Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDE), including Deca-BDE, and Polybrominated Biphenyls (PBB)**

The majority of Amphenols products do not contain PBDEs or PBBs; however at this time Amphenol is unable to provide a ‘blanket’ RoHS compliancy statement with respect to these substances for its entire range of products.

If any customer requires RoHS compliancy information on the products they buy from Amphenol, they are requested to submit the specific part numbers / families, for a case-by-case appraisal of RoHS compliancy.

I trust that this statement clarifies the Amphenol Limited policy and its approach to implementing ‘*EU Directive 2002/95/EC on the restrictions and use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment dated 27 January 2003*’.

Should any queries arise, please do not hesitate to contact myself, at the above address,

Erica Lewis

Revised on 10/09/08