

RoHS FAQ

Q. Are all electronic products covered by the RoHS Directive?

A. No; only those 'equipments' falling into the specified categories (see table), and 'parts' of equipments in those categories, are covered by the directive scope. Some categories are specifically excluded such as Aerospace, Military, Medical and Monitoring and Control.

1. Large household appliances
2. Small household appliances
3. IT and telecommunications equipment
4. Consumer equipment
5. Lighting equipment
6. Electrical and electronic tools (with the exception of large-scale stationary industrial tools)
7. Toys, leisure and sports equipment
10. Automatic dispensers

Q. What is GE Sensing doing to meet it's obligations under the RoHS Directive?

A. We have developed an extensive program to review not only those products that must comply by 1st of July 2006 but also the entire product range. This is a very large and complex task. It involves nearly all our suppliers and our agreements with them, many of our customers, a complete review of affected product designs and many changes to components and processes. Finally, validation testing of the compliant product is required to ensure quality. In many cases we will change existing products to be compliant and publish the compliance date and how to identify compliant product here on this site. In other cases specific performance agreements exist with customers and individual negotiations must be conducted.

We intend to do more than meet our obligations under the RoHS Directive. GE Sensing wishes to protect and improve the environment wherever possible and so fully supports this reduction of toxic substances.

Q. How will you identify your RoHS compliant parts?

A. Because compliance will only be an issue during the transition (all relevant parts will be compliant after June 2006 so as stocks are used up the question becomes less significant) we do not intend to specifically mark items. This web site will indicate which was the first batch, date code or version at which the product became compliant. There is no legal requirement to mark product as compliant with RoHS. Should marking be used for any reason as a compliance identifier then this will be reported here on the RoHS pages.

Q. In the case of sensing elements which are assembled into equipment by soldering, what soldering process have you used to verify the RoHS part?

A. These parts have been designed and tested to be suitable for re-flow soldering using a 96% tin solder.

Q. What are RoHS 'exemptions'?

A. Exemptions are listed in the directive, and some are still under negotiation. They represent a temporary agreement to allow the continued use of one or more of the proscribed materials for the specified purposes only. Exemptions have been generated only where there is no current alternative to the use of the material. In making this judgment the possible high cost of an alternative is not accepted as an argument against using that alternative.

Q. Will GE Sensing change all products to RoHS compliant?

A. Yes, over a period of time. The first to be changed are those which fall into the present scope of the EU RoHS Directive, we call these Phase 1 products. They are our sensors. Phase 2 products, Instruments, will follow later. We are making changes to Phase 2 products as part of our commitment to the environment regardless of legislation.

Q. Will any GE Sensing products be made obsolete as a result of RoHS legislation?

A. It is likely that a few of our products will no longer be manufacturable under the new law. We will advise customers as soon as we are aware of any such situation and discuss alternative products.

Q. Which RoHS compatible parts can still contain lead?

A. In general lead is still permitted in products covered by the legislation so long as its concentration is below 0.1% by weight in 'homogeneous material'. Also there are exemptions that allow higher lead levels in particular components of a product where there are no alternatives.