

RoHS stands for Restriction of the use of certain Hazardous Substances in electrical and electronic equipment.

EU legislation restricting the use of hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) and promoting the collection and recycling of such equipment has been in force since February 2003.

The legislation provides for the creation of collection schemes where consumers return their used waste EEE free of charge.

The objective of these schemes is to increase the recycling and/or re-use of such products.

The legislation also requires certain hazardous substances (heavy metals such as lead, mercury, cadmium, and hexavalent chromium and flame retardants such as polybrominated biphenyls (PBB) or polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE)) to be substituted by safer alternatives. Waste EEE poses environmental and health risks if inadequately treated.

The RoHS and WEEE directives on electrical and electronic equipment were recast in 2011 and 2012 to tackle the fast increasing waste stream of such products. The aim is to increase the amount of waste EEE that is appropriately treated and to reduce the volume that goes to disposal.

RoHS EU Directive 2011/65/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2011 on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (recast).

RoHS 3 EU Directive 2015/863 adds Category II products and adds four new restricted substances - all phthalates.

The four phthalates are mainly used as insulation plasticizers, and are on the REACH list of SVHC (Substances of Very High Concern).

Category II products include all other electronic and electrical equipment not covered under the other categories.

Included are 2-wheeled vehicles, electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) such as e-cigarettes, cannabis vaporizers and vape pens. Also included are electrical cables that are less than 250V working voltage.

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02011L0065-20200901>