

## **Background What are 'WEEE & RoHS'?**

From work done on understanding the environmental impact of electrical and electronic waste the European Commission have developed two directives, which are linked : WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) and RoHS (Restriction of Hazardous Substances). The WEEE directive requires producers to take responsibility for treating & recycling their products when they become waste. RoHS required a number of potentially hazardous substances to be phased out by July 2006. These directives have or are becoming law across the member states of the EEC. Additionally other countries are developing similar legislation with the same purpose.

## **STATEMENT**

**DEK products are compliant with the current legislation. DEK continues to work with our suppliers to maintain compliant status as this legislation is developed and implemented in the countries where DEK products are used. In addition DEK will be providing waste disposal guidelines, in line with industry best practice, to enable customers to safely & effectively dispose of DEK machines at end of life.**

## **Frequently asked questions**

### **What substances are covered by RoHS?**

- **Lead (Pb)** - typical use: solder, termination coatings, paint (pigment or drier), PVC (stabiliser)
- **Mercury (Hg)** - typical use: fluorescent lamps, sensors, relays
- **Cadmium (Cd)**- typical use: pigment, PVC (stabiliser), contacts, batteries
- **Hexavalent Chromium (Cr(VI))** - typical use: anti-corrosion coating (zinc & aluminium), corrosion resistant paints
- **Polybrominated Biphenyls (PBB)** - typical use: flame retardants used in plastics
- **Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDE)** - typical use: flame retardants used in plastics

### **Does this legislation affect only the European market?**

No - similar legislation is being introduced in other countries / states (e.g. China, Korea, California) & the intent of the legislation can be considered global in nature.

### **Are DEK machines affected today?**

Under the present EU legislation, DEK machines are exempt being 'large-scale stationary industrial tools' (see Annex 1A of WEEE and Article 2 paragraph 1 of RoHS). However the China legislation is more onerous &, from March 2007, DEK have been required to label our machines with a RoHS compliance symbol & document where any restricted substances are still being used.

If you would like more information about the disposal of equipment regarding DEK machines, please download the relevant PDF from the DEK website.

**What about DEK consumable products?**

These products are not WEEE so are not covered by the legislation. They are also **not** incorporated into a customer's product so there is no reason for a customer to ask for a compliance certificate. However this will not stop customers asking about RoHS compliance. We can therefore confirm that wipes, paper rolls, spatulas etc do not contain any of the banned materials and are compliant and if a customer asks for such a certificate then this bulletin can be provided.

**What are the next steps being taken by DEK?**

DEK continues to monitor the legislation as drafted or enacted (as the case may be in each country) to ensure that DEK products remain compliant. Whenever significant changes take place from our present understanding, this bulletin will be updated and appropriate communications made with the relevant DEK partners.

**Can DEK provide material laboratory test reports ?**

These are available (upon request from Regional Product Managers) for all materials that can come into contact with a customer's PCB.

**Further questions?**

Please [contact DEK](#) or your Regional Product Managers if you have any further questions.

See also [European Commission > Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment website](#).