



RoHS and WEEE Questions and Answers

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GENERAL QUESTIONS

What is the difference between WEEE and RoHS?

WEEE deals with WASTE, or “what to do with the product at the end of its life”. RoHS deals with RESTRICTION, or “what substances are restricted for use in electronic equipment”

When must electronic equipment comply with these new rules?

WEEE regulations became effective since August 2005; RoHS regulations will come into force from July 2006 onwards.

PRODUCT-RELATED QUESTIONS

Are batteries covered by RoHS?

No, they must be recycled at the end of their life (WEEE regulation).

What does “electronic equipment” mean?

Equipment which is dependent on electric current or electromagnetic fields in order to work properly, in other words, almost all battery or mains-operated equipment.

What equipment must, at present time, NOT necessarily comply with RoHS after 01/06/2006?

Equipment for measuring, monitoring and testing (multimeters, oscilloscopes, power supplies for testing). It is possible that these categories will be included within the scope of the RoHS Directive. However, if approved, implementation is not expected before 2009 / 2010.

Is there a restriction difference between professionally used equipment and household equipment?

No, there is no differentiation between professionally used equipment and household equipment; both are covered by the RoHS.

Must DIY kits (like our Velleman kits) comply with the RoHS regulations?

Components do not fall within the scope of RoHS, so kits must not comply. Since components will comply with RoHS (for use in equipment), kits will automatically comply as a result. Most PCBs used in our kits are already RoHS compliant.

DISTRIBUTION-RELATED QUESTIONS

Can I still sell non-RoHS compliant equipment I have not sold before 01/07/2006?

Yes, providing the equipment is put on the market, stocked in a warehouse etc., it can be sold after July 2006 and it can also be maintained or repaired using non-compliant components.

Can I manufacture and ship non-compliant equipment outside of the EU after July 2006?

Yes, there is nothing in the legislation to stop this at present time (check you local country regulations).

What is the Velleman policy regarding RoHS and WEEE?

We made clear to all our suppliers that non-compliant products will be rejected on the European market (i.e. our warehouse) after the specific date. Some of our products are already RoHS compliant.

Must a product be labeled if it is RoHS compliant?

No, not at this time. However, it is possible that our own RoHS-compliant label will be put on products for internal reference and for follow-up.

Note: This Q and A section is a sum of our own interpretations and is by no means complete or binding.