

California RoHS

Most of us are familiar with the European Union RoHS (EU Directive 2002/95/EC) requirements that have been in effect for some time. But did you know the Great State of California has enacted a law similar to, but with limited scope as the European Union RoHS requirements. California RoHS regulations took effect January 1, 2007.

California's RoHS Law limits the amount of certain hazardous heavy metals in specific waste electronic devices. The California Law prohibits covered electronic devices from being sold in California if the covered electronic device is prohibited for sale under the EU RoHS regulations.

California's RoHS Law is much narrower in scope than the EU Directive. Primary differences are:

- California does not ban from sale electronic devices restricted from sale under the EU RoHS that are not "covered electronic devices" even if they contain restricted substances above what is allowed. The current "covered electronic devices" are:
 1. Cathode ray tube containing devices (CRT devices)
 2. Cathode ray tubes (CRT's)
 3. Computer monitors containing CRT's
 4. Laptop computers with liquid crystal display
 5. LCD containing desktop monitors
 6. Televisions containing CRT's
 7. Televisions containing LCD screens
 8. Plasma televisions
 9. Portable DVD players with LCD screens
- The EU Directive applies to "electrical and electronic equipment", whereas California's RoHS Law only applies to "covered electronic devices".
- Electronic devices may be subject to RoHS if they were put on the market on or after the date the EU RoHS Directive took effect, regardless of when the devices manufactured. California's RoHS regulations, on the other hand, apply only to those "covered electronic devices" manufactured on and after the date that the devices first became subject to the California RoHS regulations.
- The EU RoHS Directive restricts the use of two brominated flame retardants, polybrominated biphenyls (PBBs) and polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs), in electronic devices. California's RoHS regulations do not restrict the use of any brominated flame retardants in "covered electronic devices."

For more information on this subject, please see the California Department of Toxic Substance Control's website at <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/RoHS.cfm>.

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