

Brussels, 11 October 2018

**BeST feedback on the roadmap to evaluation of the RoHS Directive**BeST

Beryllium Science & Technology Association – represents the suppliers of beryllium metal and beryllium containing alloys in the EU market and has the objective of promoting sound policies, regulations, science and actions related to the use of beryllium and to serve as an expert resource for the international community on the benefits and criticality of beryllium applications. It is also the objective of BeST to promote good practices in the workplace, in order to protect workers handling beryllium containing materials.

Introduction

The European Commission has published its evaluation roadmap on hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) in view of the upcoming review of the Directive 2011/65/EU on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (RoHS). Indeed, by July 2021, the European Commission shall evaluate the directive and report on its results to the European Parliament and to the Council.

Feedback

Without prejudice to BeST's active participation in the envisaged future public and targeted consultations as scheduled in the roadmap, BeST already raises the following main general concerns in the frame of the current public feedback:

- With the development of the REACH framework, in particular the recent development of a database on articles containing candidate list substances, the RoHS Directive lacks any purpose and constitutes a mere duplication of REACH with consequent excessive regulatory burden on industry in general.
- The RoHS Directive lacks coherence and coordination with other initiatives and policies, namely REACH, OSH Legislation, Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive (CMD), Waste Framework Directive (WFD), End of Life Vehicles directive (ELV), Circular Economy Package, and the Raw Materials Strategy.
- Prioritisation of substances for assessment for restriction under RoHS is based solely on hazard classifications, does not consider the requisites identified in the RoHS directive - namely article 6 – and, to date, is conducted in absence of a clearly established methodology.
- Most of substances targeted by RoHS are used because of unique properties in applications where safety and reliability are essential. The chemical and physical properties of substances do not change and regular periodic reviews are not justified. These repeated evaluations generate unnecessary burden and uncertainty for the EU industry which needs predictability to ensure its sustainable development.
- The RoHS Directive has an impact on the global trade of EEE with negative consequences in particular for EU Industry.

Conclusions

The feedback offered herein highlights the main negative impacts that the RoHS directive has on stakeholders of the EEE industry and its failure in terms of effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and EU added value.

We remain at your disposal to discuss the above-points and for any further assistance.



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