

What is RoHS and WEEE?

There are 2 European Directives that are converted into national law of each European member state within 2005 or latest early 2006:

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One of the most important consequences of this Directive is the fact that soldering often ask for high-temperature resistant substances (e.g. plastic), as the lead-substitutes for soldering often require a higher temperature.

- The **WEEE** ("Waste electrical and electronic Equipment", 2002/96/EC) deals with the pickup and recycling of certain products / devices within the EU and pushes the responsibility of the manufacturer (which may also be an importer!) to new limits.

In the future, a standardized symbol shows the end-consumer, that these products are not to be thrown away to the domestic waste, but have to be collected at local collecting points. The waste will then be collected by the manufacturers directly, after they'll be informed by an authority that each member state has to set up. This authority will be responsible for the organisation of the WEEE.

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ASSMANN and RoHS / WEEE

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Who is affected by the RoHS / WEEE?

Especially the **RoHS** affects nearly all manufacturers and wholesalers of electronic products worldwide. Although, this is an European Directive, it affects the whole world due to the worldwide market of suppliers. Furthermore, many other countries, e.g. Japan and the USA, plan steps into similar directions or have gone even further already! It is assumed that all over the world, markets will be converged concerning the RoHS within the next few years.

Beside the labelling of the products in the production, the **WEEE** affects more the European markets, where manufacturers / wholesalers have to deal with different local authorities to organize the pickup and recycling of the affected goods. The WEEE is similar among the member states of the EU, but still has differences in important aspects. This complicates especially the issue of import and export. Speaking about the implementation of the Directives into national law and the necessary organisation, some countries are very far, while others are only poorly organized as of now.

Priority of RoHS / WEEE

The **RoHS** deadline at the 1st of July 2006 is binding for all manufacturers (and also importers) of affected products. From this day on, only existing stocks can be sold off, not compliant stocks may be cleared, but no not compliant products may be imported to the EU from that day on.

To be provocative, everything that reaches European ground before midnight of 30th of June 2006 can be sold off afterwards, although lawyers and other experts are not completely at one on this. Due to warehouse turnover and other factors, the real date for the transition to RoHS compliancy is much earlier. All manufacturers have to cope with an enormous pressure to convert their products.

Within Germany, the registration to meet the **WEEE** is obligation until the 24th of November. From 24th of March on, the products have to be marked. Other member states of the EU have other deadlines. First alignments to pick up goods are supposed to reach the manufacturers within 2006. Assmann Electronic has registered in time, their registration number at the EAR (German authority for the WEEE) is **DE 71839861**.

Assmann and RoHS / WEEE

Assmann Electronic has focused on the **RoHS** quite early – maybe even a bit too early, as many suppliers, especially in the Far East, were not aware of the facts of the RoHS.

Only within 2004, after a lot of awareness training, the urgency of this topic was recognized by the suppliers. The biggest technological task was to change the soldering method to lead free. That results in higher costs, which only could be given to the market partial.

Side effects like non compliant stock, the labelling of the goods, the division of old and new, compliant goods in the warehouse and much more complicated the implementation of the Directive with it's ambitious schedule. All steps of the value chain are affected.

For Assmann's product range, almost all products are affected by the **RoHS** – especially because lead was found in most of the soldering. The transition to compliancy was therefore and because of the global supplier market a huge task. Nonetheless, most products are already on stock in their compliant version, Assmann is only purchasing compliant goods soon. From the first of January 2006, Assmann Electronic has all products on stock compliant and will only sell off remaining, non-compliant stock. Therefore, Assmann will reach the goal of the RoHS some time before the deadline on the 1st of July 2006.

The **WEEE** is not affecting all electronic products, but only electronic „devices“ with certain function. The identification follows certain aspects (“current consumer”, “B2B or B2C”, ...) and is quite complex – and not even executable unambiguous in some cases. The WEEE affects a few hundred products of Assmann's range. Those products will be marked with the standardized symbol from now on, and Assmann takes care of all the obligations (registration, notifying inputs, pick up, recycling, ...) at least in Germany. Of course, all international subsidiaries and partners are aware of that fact as well.

Conclusion RoHS / WEEE

ASSMANN customers are on the safe side

Assmann has taken care of **RoHS** and **WEEE** really early. Despite the complex, global supplier market, many products are already compliant. All remaining products are only purchased compliant, and are available in their compliant version shortly

By request of our customers, all part-numbers are staying the same. Therefore, our customers do not need to take care of a few thousand new products numbers.

All products affected by the **RoHS** are or will be labelled with a self-explanatory symbol (“RoHS compliant”). Non compliant goods are accordingly not marked.



The status of the RoHS per product can be viewed on the delivery notes shortly. More information on the status of certain products are available at your contact person at Assmann.

Following the **WEEE**, all precautions are taken, products are identified, labelled with the standardized symbol, the registration is done, and Assmann will take care of all following obligation. If you need more information on your country, please contact your sales person at Assmann or one of our partners and subsidiaries.