

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS) ON RESTRICTION OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES (RoHS) IN ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT (EEE) IN SINGAPORE

Background

1. What is the intention behind the implementation of Singapore RoHS (SG-RoHS) in EEE?

SG-RoHS is adapted from EU-RoHS Directive, Directive 2011/65/EU. Similar to the EU, the objective of SG-RoHS is to minimise the environmental impact of Waste EEE at the end of their useful life. This is achieved by restricting the presence of 6 hazardous substances (i.e. 4 heavy metals and 2 flame retardants) used in the manufacture of the EEE. The upstream controls will reduce the presence of heavy metals in the incineration ash entering Semakau Landfill. This initiative will also increase the potential recyclability of incineration ash, which NEA is exploring as one of the strategies to extend the lifespan of Semakau Landfill.

2. Where are SG-RoHS controls listed in the regulations?

These controls had been gazetted on 1st June 2016. Legislative amendments had been made to the Second Schedule of the Environmental Protection and Management Act (EPMA). The amendment subsidiary legislation can be viewed on the e-gazette website below (notification nos. 263):

<http://www.egazette.com.sg/gazetteViewDetail.aspx?ct=sls&subscriber=0>

Scope of SG-RoHS Controls

3. When will the controls for SG-RoHS come into effect?

The controls for SG-RoHS will come into effect on 1st June 2017. Companies may wish to note the following will be taken as reference for the compliance with RoHS controls:

- a) "Manufacture date" for locally manufactured EEE that will be sold in Singapore; and
- b) "Importation date" for imported EEE to be sold in Singapore

4. Is there any transition period for companies to comply with SG-RoHS?

NEA allows for a one-year transition period after the gazette is published on 1st June 2016 before the controls take effect from 1st June 2017. This transition period is intended for companies to meet contractual agreements, comply with the SG-RoHS requirements and for suppliers to source for alternatives.

5. What are the controls for SG-RoHS?

The control measures under the SG-RoHS are summarised in the table below:

6 Restricted Hazardous Substances (HS)	Allowable Concentration Limits	Controlled EEE
Lead (Pb)	Maximum 1,000ppm (0.1% by weight)	Currently, the types of EEE identified for control are : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mobile phones, • portable computers, • refrigerators, • air conditioners, • panel TVs; and • washing machines
Mercury (Hg)		
Hexavalent Chromium (Cr VI)		
Polybrominated Biphenyls (PBBs)		
Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDEs)		
Cadmium (Cd)	Maximum 100ppm (0.01% by weight)	

6. What are excluded from the control of SG-RoHS?
- Spare parts and components which are sold separately - NEA will review SG-RoHS controls to include spare parts and components in the future. Hence, companies are encouraged to switch to SG-RoHS compliant spare parts where feasible
 - Batteries and accumulators used in EEE, whether or not incorporated into appliances - Currently in Singapore, the mercury content in batteries is controlled under the Environmental Protection and Management Act (EPMA)
 - Used or second-hand EEE
 - Packaging used by the EEE

7. My company uses the 6 listed HS for the manufacture of electronic component. Do I have to declare and comply with SG-RoHS?

With the introduction of SG-RoHS, all parts and/or components integrated in the controlled finished EEE must comply with the stipulated maximum concentration limits for the 6 HS.

Any company that wishes to import, export, sell, purchase, store or use hazardous substances which are controlled as hazardous substances under the Second Schedule of EPMA will need to apply for a HS Licence/Permit from NEA-PCD. For information on applying for HS licence/permit, please go to:- <http://www.nea.gov.sg/anti-pollution-radiation-protection/chemical-safety/hazardous-substances>

The list of the controlled HS could be referred at:- <http://www.nea.gov.sg/docs/default-source/anti-pollution-radiation-protection/chemical-pollution/hazardous-substances/hs--table-1>

8. If the controlled EEE can be used for non-household application which is currently not in the scope of SG-RoHS, does the EEE have to comply with SG-RoHS controls?

Yes, the controlled EEE is still required to comply with SG-RoHS controls. Importers and manufacturers are responsible for having full knowledge of the intended use of their EEE.

9. What will happen to non-compliant controlled EEE in the market after the SG-RoHS implementation?

a) Prior to 1st June 2017

SG-RoHS will not apply to the controlled EEE which are imported into or manufactured in Singapore prior to 1st June 2017. These EEE may continue to be marketed until their existing stocks are exhausted.

b) After 1st June 2017

However, for controlled EEE that are imported into or manufactured in Singapore after 1st June 2017 and are found to be non-compliant with SG-RoHS, the companies would have to apply for a Hazardous Substance Licence to re-export these EEE. For information on application of HS licence/permit, please refer to: - <http://www.nea.gov.sg/anti-pollution-radiation-protection/chemical-safety/hazardous-substances>.

Compliance Requirements

10. I am a trader importing one of 6 controlled EEE. How do I demonstrate compliance upon import?

Traders/importers are required to declare their product conformity at importation stage as follows:

- a) selecting the correct Harmonised System (HS) Classification and Product Code (compliant) in TradeNet
- b) submitting a manufacturer/importer declaration letter. Following the selection of the appropriate product code, the declaration letter (once-off) is to be sent via email to nea_pcd_hs@nea.gov.sg. Importers would not be required to re-submit the declaration documents unless there are changes in the scope of controlled EEE declared earlier.
- c) retaining (i) declaration letter and (ii) technical documentation, to be produced at NEA's request within 30 days.

11. What are the documentations which the companies would need to prepare for importing, distributing and manufacturing of the controlled EEE?

A summary of the documentations required is as tabulated below. These documentations would need to be kept and produced upon request by the NEA during post market surveillance, within 30 days.

Documentations Required	Stage at which the documentations need to be submitted	Remarks
Declaration of Conformity	This would need to be submitted at : a) Point of import for importation of the controlled EEE b) Before the sale of the product for locally	Companies are required to send the once-off declaration to NEA at:- nea_pcd_hs@nea.gov.sg In addition, companies may also wish to submit or prepare the following supporting documents,

	manufactured EEE	but these should not replace the one-time declaration: a) Existing EU declaration of conformity b) Declarations on RoHS compliance at company's corporate website for the 3 rd parties' benefit.
Technical documentation of the EEE for the assessment of electrical and electronic products with respect to the restriction of hazardous substances.	This <u>would not need</u> to be submitted at the point of import and before sale for locally manufactured EEE.	Companies may demonstrate compliance in accordance to EN 50581:2012* or otherwise prove compliance to requirements. <i>*EN 50581:2012 describes 3 kinds of documents that may be used to demonstrate conformity with the RoHS requirements namely (i) Supplier declarations and/or signed contractual agreements (ii) Materials declarations and (iii) Analytical test results (Requires the use of EN 62321: 2009 test method)</i>

12. What are the acceptable test methods for SG-RoHS compliance?

While EN 50581:2012 standards requires product to be tested in accordance to EN 62321, NEA also accepts other internationally recognised test methods. This is to allow importers/traders the flexibility to choose internationally recognised methods which are accessible to them.

13. The controlled EEE that are branded under my company is imported by another company. Can the trader import and declare on behalf of my company?

Yes, the importer may declare on behalf of your company. As PCD carries out routine enforcement on the EEE, the importer/trader has to ensure that the EEE are compliant with local regulations. Please note that the onus lies on the importer/ trader to ensure that the products meet local regulation. In the event there is an infringement, the importer/supplier/trader will be held responsible.

14. If the EEE has various manufacturing plants, can the importer declare the EEE under its company name instead of gathering manufacturers' declaration from the various manufacturers' plants?

Yes. Please see response to Q12.

15. I am a trader importing mobile phones and portable computers. These EEE are also controlled by IMDA. How do I ensure that the imported EEE complies with both IMDA and NEA requirements?

Besides having to ensure that mobile phones and portable computers are SG-RoHS compliant, IMDA also has requirements for the import of mobile phones and portable

computers which can be found in: <https://www.imda.gov.sg/regulations-licensing-and-consultations/licensing/licences/licence-for-the-sale-of-telecommunication-equipment/tradenet---list-of-ahtn-2012-codes>.

Traders importing these 2 product categories are required to select the appropriate product code starting with PCDMPH 211/311 (Mobile phone) and PCDPCO211/311 (portable computer) in TradeNet. The application would be routed to both NEA and IMDA for processing. The TradeNet application will only be approved if it complies with both agencies' requirements.

16. Do I have to inform NEA-PCD if I am importing the controlled EEE for my personal use?

Small quantities of the controlled EEE can be imported for an individual's own use as per IMDA control. There is no need to declare product conformity to NEA via TradeNet. However, importers of such EEE are to ensure that the equipment comply with local regulations.

17. What is the difference between EU-RoHS and SG-RoHS?

The SG-RoHS is modelled after the European Union Directive on the Restriction of Hazardous Substances, Directive 2011/65/EU, but with some modifications. The key differences between SG-RoHS and EU-RoHS are as follows:

Area	SG-RoHS	EU-RoHS
Product Scope	Controls apply only to 6 categories of EEE viz mobile phones, portable computers, refrigerators, air conditioners, panel TVs and washing machines.	Controls apply to all EEE
Exemptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt full list of EU-RoHS exemptions Directive 2011/65/EU • Include individual spare parts and components that are imported/manufactured to be placed on market as standalone product or are used for replacement, repair and refurbishment. 	Exemption does not include individual spare parts and components imported/manufactured to be placed on market as an individual product. (http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32011L0065)
Declaration of conformity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importers and distributors to submit a completed declaration form at the point of import of the EEE • Local manufacturers to submit the declaration before the sale of the EEE • Non-compliant EEE would not be allowed for local sale. The company would have to apply for a hazardous substance licence from NEA to export these products. 	Company to prepare and retain their declaration of conformity and to be presented upon request.

Other enquires

18. For other enquiries on RoHS in EEE, please contact us at nea_pcd_hs@nea.gov.sg.