

Application Note

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Application: RoHS FAQs

Highly value-added workmanship and distinct cost advantages

Overview

RoHS is scheduled to take effect on July 1, 2006. The European Union's Directive restricts (and/or bans) the use of certain substances in the manufacture of electronics products, including lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, and two types of brominated flame retardants: PBB, and PBDB. The Directive has had a significant effect on the electronics industry.

As the July 2006 deadline approaches, many customers are inquiring about RoHS compliance for their parts and assemblies. Since Segue only manufactures custom parts to customer specifications, we have unique needs in order to comply. The following are some of the frequently asked questions that we have received:



Q: Can Segue manufacture RoHS compliant parts and assemblies?

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A: Yes. We have the capability to manufacture all of our components and assemblies to RoHS compliance.

Q: To be in compliance with RoHS, is it acceptable for the customer to just add a statement that the parts or assemblies must be RoHS compliant to their purchase orders or drawings?

A: By merely adding the statement for RoHS compliance does not mean that the parts will comply. Since the customer, not Segue, controls the design of the components and assemblies, the customers must ensure that their design is not in conflict with RoHS.



Q: How can they be in conflict?

A: For example, if the customer specifies a tin/lead finish on their PCB specification, it would be in direct conflict with RoHS compliance. A similar example is the requirement to have a tin/lead dip of the leads on a transformer. The customer must review all specifications of their drawing to determine if they conflict with RoHS.

Q: I have heard that PC boards and board assemblies are more difficult to bring into compliance. Why?

A: PC board drawings may be changed to remove the tin/lead finish in favor of a RoHS compatible one, but the board material must be compatible with the 30°C higher solder temperatures using pure tin during the soldering cycle. Some of the PCB materials currently in use cannot be used at this higher temperature. While Segue Electronics will do all that we can to meet the requirements of our customers, the RoHS Directive may create technical conflicts that need to be resolved in order to bring parts and assemblies into compliance.

Q: What about components? Can't the customer just state that we must use RoHS compliant components?

A: No. While many component manufacturers switch all of their products to be RoHS compliant, not all are doing so. Many manufacturers are using different part numbers to indicate RoHS compliant parts. If the bill of material (BOM) requires that we use a specific part number from a specific manufacturer, we cannot use any parts not on the list. Therefore, the customer must change the part numbers on the BOM to RoHS compliant part numbers.

