

Fuses – RoHS & WEEE

➤ *What is the point of these Directives ?*

These directives have been introduced in order to ensure a Europe wide scheme of the handling of waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE). Predominantly this is aimed at EEE which is intended for domestic use. The aim is to reduce the amount of domestic EEE which ends up in landfill sites. Where possible it will be preferred that waste EEE is returned into a recycling scheme which reuses the raw materials.

The WEEE Directive sets specific recycling targets and companies operating schemes under the WEEE Directive must report on the effectiveness of these schemes

The RoHS Directive is in essence the second line of defence which is there to limit the levels of potentially harmful materials which are present in items of EEE which may end up being sent to landfill sites within Europe.

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➤ *What is the ROHS Directive ?*

The ROHS directive concentrates on the Restriction Of the use of certain Hazardous Substances in electrical and electronic equipment often referred to as EEE

The substances to be banned are: Lead, Mercury, Cadmium, Hexavalent Chromium, Polybrominated Biphenyls (PBB) and Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDE). It should be noted that the directives do allow provision for a review and addition to the banned substances list.

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➤ Does the ROHS Directive affect Bussmann Power Products ?

The directive only affects Bussmann products which are used as components in items of EEE which fall within the scope of the Directive. The RoHS Regulations do *NOT* apply to:

- *To large-scale stationary industrial tools. (This is a machine or system, consisting of a combination of equipment, systems or products, each of which is manufactured and intended to be used only in fixed industrial applications.)*
- *To spare parts for the repair of EEE placed on the market before 1 July 2006 and to replacement components that expand the capacity of and/or upgrade EEE placed on the market before 1 July 2006.*
- *Items of EEE not intended for sale in the European Community*

➤ *What is the WEEE Directive ?*

The WEEE directive concentrates on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment that falls into the category of having a voltage range of up to 1000 volts AC and 1500 volts DC. The objectives are to prevent the waste of electrical and electronic equipment and to increase re-use, recycling and other forms of recovery and to improve the environmental performance of all operators involved in the life cycle of this equipment.

All items of EEE that are covered under the RoHS Directive are covered in exactly the same way by the WEEE directive. The two directives are not mutually exclusive.

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➤ *How will the WEEE Directive affect Bussmann Power Products?*

The WEEE directive will effect all producers of EEE which falls under the RoHS & WEEE Directives. The WEEE directive is really all about the disposal of the product at the end of its life, and to whom that obligation falls.

There are no requirements under the WEEE Directive for component suppliers to provide recycling schemes etc, but Cooper Bussmann is a founder member of the UK's fuse recycling scheme (BEAMA Recycling Ltd).

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➤ *When does all this happen?*

Collection, treatment and financing systems for WEEE must be in place by September 2005 and the first collection and treatment targets are to be attained by December 2006. The RoHS Directive comes into force on July 6th 2006

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➤ *Will our products need to carry special markings?*

No: The only requirement for marking under both Directives is for manufacturers of EEE to mark that their product is part of a scheme under WEEE. The symbol is shown below.

This is a good benchmark for your customers: If the product they are manufacturing doesn't carry this mark then neither the WEEE or the RoHS Directives apply to them.



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➤ ***Will we have to take non-Rohs compliant products back from customers?***

No: Remember in almost all cases the RoHS Directive does not apply to Bussmann Power fuses and therefore we are not required to be in compliance with the Directive.

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➤ What is Bussmann Planning to do about these directives?

WEEE: Bussmann is not a manufacturer of EEE and as such we are not covered under this Directive.

RoHS. By December 2005 we will have completed our audit to determine which of our products exclude the materials in RoHS. At this stage we will also determine which product ranges will be required to be redesigned to take out these materials.

Steps 4 & 5: - Implementation

Progress in Europe/India:

- All solder used in Burton and India LV manufacturing to be 100% lead free by end 2005.
- All Danish HSF product RoHS compliant
- On target for 100% RoHS compliance on all Burton/India/DK LV product by 01/01/06
- Assessment of impact on MV products underway
- Branded product assessment underway (DF confirmed to be RoHS compliant)
- All new NPD projects 100% lead and cadmium free since 2004