EN 50419 Published – Defining WEEE Markings

EN 50419:2005 has just been published, clarifying the markings required for electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) under the EU Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive 2002/96/EC. All EEE placed on the EU market after 13 August 2005 will have to bear these markings as follows:

- A unique identification of the producer\(^1\). Brand name, trademark, company registration number or other suitable means of identification, and shall be registered with each Member State in which the EEE is placed on the market, per Article 12(1) of the WEEE Directive.
- Date marking:
  - Of manufacture/placing the product on the market (after 13 August 2005), or
  - A solid bar\(^2\), added beneath the crossed wheelie bin symbol already required by Article 10(3) of the WEEE Directive.
- These markings shall be accessible, durable, legible and indelible. In the absence of a durability test in the product’s standard(s), these markings shall remain legible and not easily removed or show curling after rubbing for 15 s with a cloth soaked in water, then rubbing for another 15 s with a cloth soaked in petroleum spirit (e.g. hexane). Markings merely printed on plain paper labels, without a protective coating, are likely to be obliterated by such rubbing and fail.
- If the size, functionality or other characteristics of the product prevent these markings being applied, they shall be applied:
  - On a flag attached to the fixed supply cord (if any), and
  - In the operating instructions, and
  - Warranty of the product, where supplied.
- Only in the absence of the above options:
  - On the packaging.

The design of the crossed wheelie bin symbol has been edited slightly to match that currently used for batteries as defined by figure 2 of EN 61429/A11, with the main changes highlighted overleaf.

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\(^1\) Defined under the WEEE Directive, as the manufacturer, own-brand (e.g. retailers selling products under their own brand), importer or exporter.

\(^2\) No colour is specified for the crossed wheelie bin or solid bar, but they should be clearly legible, contrasting in colour and/or relief/engraving as appropriate.

Disclaimer
Intertek Testing Services made all reasonable efforts to ensure the accuracy of the information. However, the information provided should not be relied upon as legal advice or regarded as a substitute for legal advice. The reader should exercise his own care and judgement before relying on this information in any important matter.

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Solid bar marking, beneath the crossed wheelie bin symbol, for electrical and electronic equipment.

The handle on the left side of the lid, label on the bin and stand are now all solid, whereas the earlier draft prEN 50419:2004 these parts were outlines as thick lines which almost touched.

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RoHS – Maximum Concentration Values Approved

The RoHS maximum concentration values have now been approved, as expected, with confirmation in the Official Journal expected in March 2005. To recap, homogenous materials (which cannot be mechanically disjointed) in EEE may contain the following maximum concentrations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>Maximum Concentration in Each Homogenous Material</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cadmium</td>
<td>0.01 % (100 ppm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercury</td>
<td>0.1 % (1,000 ppm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chromium (VI) (hexavalent chromium)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polybrominated biphenyls (PBBs)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RoHS – More Exemptions Approved

The following exemption under the RoHS Directive have been approved and are expected to confirmed in the Official Journal in March 2005:

Lead exemptions:
- Lead-based alloys containing more than 85% lead e.g. Sn/Pb solders etc.
  Time limit (until 2010) deleted for lead solders in servers, storage & storage array systems.
  (All exemptions will be re-assessed in 2010, as part of their review every 4 years after implementation.)
- Compliant-pin VHDM (Very High Density Medium) connector systems.
- Use as a coating material for a thermal conduction module c-ring.
- Optical and filter glass.
- Solders consisting of more than two elements for the connection between the pins and the package of microprocessors with a lead content of more than 80 % and less than 85% by weight.
- Solders to complete a viable electrical connection between semiconductor die and carrier within integrated circuit Flip Chip packages.

Cadmium exemptions:
- Cadmium and its compounds in electrical contacts.
  e.g. cadmium oxide in silver/cadmium oxide contacts (AgCdO).
- Optical and filter glass.
RoHS – Other Exemptions Under Consultation

Other RoHS exemptions are still being considered:

- Lead in lead-bronze bearing shells and bushes.
- Lead crystal in glass chandeliers.
- Use of non-RoHS compliant parts in new EEE.

A further 22 proposed exemptions are under a Commission consultation, which closes on 11 February 2005:

1. Lead in tin whisker resistant coatings for fine pitch (<0.65 mm) applications (e.g. connectors).
2. Lead bound in glass, crystal glass, lead crystal or full lead crystal in general.
3. Chromium (VI) and cadmium as colouring agents (up to 2% content) in glass, crystal glass, lead crystal or full lead crystal for decorative and/or functional use.
4. Solder containing lead and/or cadmium for specific applications.
5. Hexavalent chromium anti-corrosion coatings.
6. Lead oxide glass in plasma display panels.
7. Lead in connectors, flexible printed circuits, flexible flat cables.
8. Lead glass used for magnetic VCRs.
9. Cadmium as a doping material in avalanche photodiodes (APDs) for optical fibre communications.
10. Lead in optical isolators.
11. Lead glass seals in the sheath heater of microwaves.
12. Cadmium pigments in glass, crystal glass, lead crystal or full lead crystal for decorative and/or functional use.
13. Lead halide (iodide) as a radiant agent in high intensity discharge (HID) lamps for professional UV applications (e.g. lamps used for curing, reprography and label printing).
14. Lead activators in the phosphors used for specialised straight and compact fluorescent lamps (e.g. lamps for sun tanning, diazo-printing, reprography, lithography, insect traps).
15. Lead as an amalgam in discharge lamps (e.g. small compact energy-saving fluorescent lamps).
16. Lead in glass solder used for mercury-free flat panel lamps.
17. Lead in the glass envelope of Black Light Blue (BLB) UV lamps (BLB lamps are used for money checking, leak detection, disco lighting etc).
18. Lead in low melting point alloys (e.g. second soldering operations on a printed circuit board (PCB) and safety and other temperature dependent switching devices).
19. Lead in galvanised steel (up to 0.35% lead) and aluminium (up to 0.4% unintended lead).
20. Lead in solder and hexavalent chromium in surface treatments in parts recovered from non-household printers & copying equipment which were originally placed on the market before 1 July 2006, and are reused as part of the original equipment manufacturer’s closed loop system until 1 July 2011.
   Light sensors which mimic the human eye, such as daylight-responsive dimming systems for lighting.
22. Aeronautic and aerospace sector applications that require high safety standards for any of the RoHS restricted substances. (Clarifying that EEE in these sectors is exempt from the RoHS Directive. Such EEE is excluded from the WEEE by falling outside the 10 WEEE categories.)

Should you have any query on the above news, please email: weee@intertek.com

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