



Brussels, 25th November 2009

EHI position on RoHS recast

The Association of the European Heating Industry (EHI) represents and promotes the common interests of 30 market leaders producing advanced technologies for heating in buildings, boilers, burners, heat pumps, mCHP, solar thermal, geothermal, biomass, and 13 national industrial associations from the EU Member States, Liechtenstein and Switzerland, thus covering a market share of more than 90%. The industry has invested massively in research and development, to create technically advanced, safe and energy efficient heating systems.

EHI recognises the need for avoiding the use of and removing hazardous materials from the municipal waste stream. We therefore welcome the revision of the RoHS-Directive with the effort to formulate a well defined scope and the aim for enhanced compliance and market surveillance.

On the other hand, latest debates on introducing a so called “open scope” have led to some concerns, as this would lead to a basic change in objectives and legal scope.

Besides the fact that there hasn't been any impact assessment made on the widening of the scope, this would go beyond the original aim of RoHS to prevent pollution from hazardous substances entering the municipal waste stream.

A heat generating device as our industry makes it is typically not an EEE at all. The typical heat generator is using a combustion process using primary energy sources to produce the required heat. At the end of the product lifecycle, the product is being fed to professional recycling channels simply because of the value of the raw material of high purity (metals). The products are no devices the end user would only even consider to submit into a municipal waste stream. They are installed and un-installed by professionals and are not comparable to plug-in appliances as e.g. TVs, refrigerators or mobile air conditioners.

We are therefore very much concerned about the open scope in the current RoHS draft, which might result in including our products. This would cause unnecessary costly burdens to the manufacturers and consumers.

If the „open scope“ would remain being the desired way forward and if the above mentioned products were then regarded as being EEE, EHI would ask to consider clear methods for creating and managing a list of exemptions.

The priority with the recast should be the clarification of the scope.

Further information can be obtained from EHI.

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