

General questionnaire

The following questions can be used in two different ways:

1. To support an **exemption request** (the applicant's exemption request which is posted on the consultation website should already contain answers to these questions) or to argue why an exemption request is not justified.
2. To support an **existing exemption** or taken as a basis for requesting an amendment or the discontinuation of an existing exemption.
 - For which substance(s) or compound(s) should the requested exemption be valid?
 - What is the application in which the substance/compound is used for and what is its specific technical function?
 - What is the specific (technical) function of the substance/compound in this application?
 - Please justify why this application falls under the scope of the RoHS Directive (e.g. is it a finished product? is it a fixed installation? What category of the WEEE Directive does it belong to?).
 - What is the amount (in absolute number and in percentage by weight) of the substance/compound in: i) the homogeneous material¹, ii) the application and iii) total EU annually for RoHS relevant applications?
 - Please check and justify why the application you request an exemption for does not overlap with already existing exemptions respectively does not overlap with exemption requests covered by previous consultations.
 - Please provide an unambiguous wording for the (requested) exemption.

Documentation provided by stakeholders including replies to the questions above should take the following points into consideration:

- Please justify your contribution according to Article 5 (1) (b) RoHS Directive whereas:
 - Substitution of concerned hazardous substances via materials and components not containing these is technically or scientifically either practicable or impracticable;
 - Elimination or substitution of concerned hazardous substances via design changes is technically or scientifically either practicable or impracticable;
 - Negative environmental, health and/or consumer safety impacts caused by substitution are either likely or unlikely to outweigh environmental, health and/or consumer safety benefits thereof (If existing, please refer to relevant studies on negative or positive impacts caused by substitution).

¹ Please refer to the FAQ document on RoHS and WEEE Directives available at http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/waste/weee_index.htm

- Please provide sound data/evidence on why substitution / elimination is either practicable or impracticable (e.g. what research has been done, what was the outcome, is there a timeline for possible substitutes, why is the substance and its function in the application indispensable or not, is there available economic data on the possible substitutes, where relevant, etc.).
- Please also indicate if feasible substitutes currently exist in an industrial and/or commercial scale for similar use.
- Please indicate the possibilities and/or the status for the development of substitutes and indicate if these substitutes were available by 1 July 2006 or at a later stage.
- Please indicate if any current restrictions apply to such substitutes. If yes, please quote the exact title of the appropriate legislation/regulation.
- Please indicate benefits / advantages and disadvantages of such substitutes.
- Please state whether there are overlapping issues with other relevant legislation such as e.g. the ELV Directive that should be taken into account.
- If a transition period between the publication of an amended Annex is needed or seems appropriate, please state how long this period should be for the specific application concerned.