

Questionnaire Exemption Request No. 7

“Lead in non-magnetic pin connector systems used at temperatures below minus 20°C”

Background

COCIR applies for an exemption for “Lead in non-magnetic pin connector systems used at temperatures below minus 20°C”

The applicant puts forward the following main arguments.

- a) Magneto-EncephaloGraphy (MEG) usi3w detectors, which are cooled to 4 K in liquid helium. Connector pins used in to contact these detectors must be non-magnetic and resistant to very low temperatures. The only suitable materials are copper pins with tin-lead alloy electroplated coatings. The lead is required to avoid tin pest.
- b) Inside the cryostat several connectors are needed, part of which are not immersed into liquid helium bath but in a (cold) helium gas phase. The temperature rises gradually from 4.2 K to room temperature at the access opening on top of the cryostat. For this reason, even though the detectors are operated at around 4 K, the exemption must cover the whole temperature range at which tin pest could occur, from 4 K (minus 269 K) up to minus 20°C.

A similar exemption was reviewed in 2008. The relevant excerpt of the final report is available on the project website at <http://rohs.exemptions.oeko.info/index.php?id=114>.

For details, please check the applicant’s exemption request <http://rohs.exemptions.oeko.info/index.php?id=114>. This exemption request has been subject to a first completeness and plausibility check. The applicant has been requested to answer additional questions and to provide additional information (c.f. link above). Please note that the wording of the exemption was modified from the original request to the current wording.

If you would like to contribute to the stakeholder consultation, please answer the following questions:

Questions

1. Please state whether you either support the applicant's request or whether you would like to provide argumentation against the applicant's request. In both cases please provide detailed technical argumentation / evidence in line with the criteria in Art. 5 (1) (a) to support your statement.
2. Do you agree with the scope of the exemption as proposed by the applicant? Please suggest an alternative wording and explain your proposal, if you do not agree with the proposed exemption wording.
3. The applicant does not propose any expiry date, which means that the exemption would have a maximum validity until 2021. Do you agree with this expiry date, or would an earlier expiry be feasible in the face of upcoming lead-free solutions?
4. Do you consider any other aspects or details to be of importance, which have not yet been taken into account?

Finally, please do not forget to provide **your contact details** (Name, Organisation, e-mail and phone number) so that Öko-Institut/Fraunhofer IZM can contact you in case there are questions concerning your contribution.