

Specific questions exemption 9a

“DecaBDE in polymeric applications”

The following specific questions should be answered in your stakeholder contribution if you support exemption 9a to be continued / amended / discontinued:

1. Please specify the **applications** in detail where DecaBDE is still used. Please provide data on energy density and thermal load for each of the specific polymeric applications. Please provide information on whether DecaBDE use has increased following the elimination of the other PBDEs.
2. Please state the **amount of DecaBDE** used per application, the DecaBDE content in the homogeneous material, the annual production volume as well as the number of applications related to exemption 9a put on the EU market annually.
3. Please provide detailed information about the **specific function** and related performance criteria of DecaBDE. Have product groups or product parts been identified where DecaBDE use is critical? What technical characteristics do substitutes need to fulfil as a minimum requirement?
4. Please provide evidence that manufacturers have put effort in **research on alternatives** for DecaBDE. What are the alternatives and which ones are (likely to be) used as substitutes? Are there any results about strengths and weaknesses expressed in results relating to (technical) performance criteria?
5. Are manufacturers still investigating **alternative designs**, which would allow elimination of Deca-BDE?
6. Are manufacturers still investigating **alternatives for the various product groups** and product parts?
 - a. If yes, please provide a **roadmap** or similar evidence showing until when they intend to replace DecaBDE in the applications mentioned above.
 - b. If no, please explain and justify why no further research has been undertaken against the background that the RoHS Annex is subject to regular revisions.
7. Assuming the current exemption will be given an **expiry date**, what date do you think is technologically feasible for industry?