

OBO Bettermann status on EU Directives RoHS / WEEE:

What OBO products come under these directives?

RoHS Restriction of Hazardous Substances

Directives:

EU Directive 2000/53/EG ELV End-of-Life Vehicles

EU Directive 2002/95/EG Electrical and Electronic Equipment (RoHS)

EU Directive 2002/96/EG WEEE Waste of Electrical and Electronic Equipment

EU Directive 76/769/EEC Use of certain hazardous substances and their preparation

EU Directive 2003/11/EG Changes to Directive 76/769/EEC

General:

RoHS applies in general to electrical and electronic equipment (equipment that for its proper operation requires electrical current or electromagnetic fields, and equipment to create, transfer and measure such currents and fields and which is designed for operation with alternating current of a maximum of 1000 volt or direct current of a maximum of 1500 volt), coming under the following categories 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 and 10 in Supplement IA to the Directive 2002/96/EG on the disposal of electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE):

- 1 Large household equipment
- 2 Small household equipment
- 3 IT and communications equipment
- 4 Electronic entertainment equipment
- 5 Lighting
- 6 Electrical and electronic tools
- 7 Toys and sports and leisure equipment
- 8 Medical equipment
- 9 Monitoring and supervision equipment
- 10 Automatic output equipment

Electro-installation materials are currently not affected.

RoHS does not apply to replacement parts for products or for the recycling of electrical and electronic products on the market for the first time before the 1st July 2006.

Validity:

The restrictions on the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment come into force from the 01.07.2006 for products newly on the market.

The substances come under the restrictions:

Lead**

Cadmium*

Mercury*

Hexavalent chromium**
Polybromided biphenyls (PBB)*
Polybromided diphenylethers (PBDE)*

* These materials are not used in OBO Bettermann products

** Changes are planned here; further information can be found below:

Restrictions on lead; lead as an alloy component

Electrical installation materials as a rule do not come under categories 1,2,3,4.5,6,7, and 10 of the WEEE. As our products are however used in other equipment and vehicles, account must be taken of the RoHS.

Regardless of the above, OBO Bettermann has been working for years on implementing the prohibition on lead and has, for example, dispensed with stabilisers containing lead in plastics since 2003.

Conversion of solders used in electronic products is also largely complete; the amount of lead in zinc coatings is being reduced to meet the restrictions set, also well within the deadlines.

The EU directives for half-finished goods (Pb in Cu alloys) have already been met completely.

Conversion to surfaces free of hexavalent chromium

The requirements set by these directives affect the following products in the OBO Bettermann range with regard to hexavalent chromium free surfaces:

Electrogalvanised and chromated fasteners and connectors, top hat rails and profile rails

An increased corrosion protection, based on DIN EN 12329:2000-9, has previously been aimed at for these products. In addition to electrogalvanisation, these components are currently being given additional passivation coatings containing hexavalent chromium (yellow chromation).

OBO Bettermann is not only going to have the concerned products changed in time, but also to assure an equal corrosion protection. Depending on the product we will either have an increased zinc thickness, blue passivated, or a thick-film passivation. Due to these circumstances the products can be slightly different e.g. the colour of the product.

As already mentioned, we will implement the conversion of our standard products step by step. Separate agreements are to be arranged for changes before deadlines.

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