

# SYSTIMAX®

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## SOLUTIONS

## RoHS - Restriction of Certain Hazardous Substances Questions and Answers

### Q. What is RoHS (Restriction of certain Hazardous Substances)?

- A. The Restriction of certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment (RoHS) Directive 2002/95/EC was adopted in January 2003 into the European Union. This Directive restricts the use of six hazardous materials in the manufacture of various types of electronic and electrical equipment.

### Q. When did it come into force?

- A. The Restriction of the use of certain Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directive came into force on 1 July 2006 in the European Union.

### Q. Does it apply anywhere else in the world?

- A. Similar regulations have been adopted in the State of California in the U.S.A. Other U.S. states either have adopted or are expected to implement similar regulations in the future, as are countries such as China.

### Q. What substances does the RoHS Directive restrict?

- A. RoHS restricts the use of the following six substances:
- Lead
  - Mercury
  - Cadmium
  - Chromium VI (Also known as hexavalent chromium)
  - Polybrominated biphenyls (PBB)
  - Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE)

### Q. To what does the RoHS Directive apply?

- A. The scope of the Directive is to ensure that electrical and electronic equipment will not damage the environment when it is subsequently discarded by reducing the waste management issues associated with the use of environmentally hazardous substances such as lead, cadmium, hexavalent chromium and mercury as well as two polybrominated flame-retardants, PBB and PBDE.

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06/06 MI-79-1

### Q. How does this Directive relate to cabling products?

- A. From a cabling perspective, manufacturers must restrict the concentration of each of these ingredients in any cabling component. For these products to be certified 'free' of the hazardous substance, concentration levels for each substance must be below certain defined levels.

### Q. What are the maximum concentration levels allowed for each designated Hazardous Substance?

- A. The Directive within the European Union for these levels is 0.1% or 1,000 parts per million (ppm), except for cadmium, which is 0.01% or 100 ppm.

### Q. What is SYSTIMAX® Solutions' position on the RoHS Directive?

- A. The principles of the RoHS Directive are very much in line with SYSTIMAX Solutions' multi-year effort to implement its environmental commitment to ensure material compliance. On first assessment, the task may appear straightforward; however, first impressions can be deceptive. SYSTIMAX Solutions faced two main challenges. The first was to design solutions that perform to the same high standard that its customers have come to expect and the second was to ensure that new products met the hazardous material concentration levels so they could be classified as compliant. Creating high-performance products that are also environmentally friendly is an ongoing priority for SYSTIMAX Labs engineers.

### Q. Do SYSTIMAX enterprise cables currently comply with the Directive?

- A. All twisted-pair copper and fiber optic cables available under the SYSTIMAX brand that are currently manufactured in the company's plants in Claremont (NC), Bray (Ireland), Brisbane (Australia) and Jaguariúna (Brazil) as well as its wholly owned subsidiary in Omaha (NE) comply with these requirements. For more detailed information please contact your local SYSTIMAX Solutions account manager.

### Q. Do SYSTIMAX connectors and apparatus comply with the Directive?

- A. SYSTIMAX Solutions has worked diligently to implement the Directive's guidelines for its connector and apparatus product lines. Considering the number of components involved, please refer to your local account manager for more information.