



June 30, 2008

Dear Valued Customer,

Subject: Annulment of RoHS Deca-BDE exemption

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) has annulled the Decabromodiphenyl ether (DecaBDE) exemption (EU 2005/717/EC) to the EU Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) directive (EU 2002/95/EC), stating that the EU Commission used an incorrect criterion as the basis for the exemption. This enters into force for RoHS-covered electrical/electronic equipment placed on the EU market after June 30, 2008.


The only 3M EMD products typically used in RoHS-covered applications¹ that are affected by this change are the Performance Plus Wire Connector family.

RoHS certifications for EMD products can be obtained at www.3M.com/rohs. Unless the statement "Contains Deca-BDE" appears in the comment field for a specific EMD product, the product does not contain decabromodiphenyl ether.

Under the EU Court ruling, RoHS-covered individual pieces of finished equipment put on the EU market after June 30, 2008 cannot contain components containing DecaBDE above de minimis levels (1000 ppm for all PBDEs) unless the equipment falls under an exemption or exclusion under the RoHS directive. Product purchased from 3M containing DecaBDE above de minimis levels that is included in RoHS-covered individual pieces of finished equipment, placed on the EU market prior to July 1, 2008, is compliant by exemption.²

The EMD RoHS covered products listed below currently contain Deca-BDE above 1000 ppm:

3M™ Performance Plus Wire Connectors (B/G+, O/B+, O/Y+, R/Y+, T/R+, T/Y+).

Note that this development in Europe does not affect these products' labeling under China RoHS (Electronic Industry Standard of the People's Republic of China, SJ/T11363-2006, Requirements for Concentration Limits for Certain Hazardous Substances in Electronic Information Products). They continue to merit the green  symbol.

Please contact your sales representative or our customer service group if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

EMD Product Responsibility Team

¹ The 2130/2135 resins also contain DecaBDE, as do products containing these resins, including 3/C Inline Splice 5700 Series, Sheath Seal 5800 series and flame retarded resin splice kits 82-BF1, 82-F1 and 82-F2. However, these products are not used in applications typically subject to RoHS.

² This should not be interpreted as legal advice. For information on the application of the RoHS Directive or other laws or regulations to your products, please consult your technical and/or legal advisers.