

RoHS-Directive 2011/65/EU

Switch to completely lead-free materials by 2027

The **RoHS-Directive 2011/65/EU (Restriction of Hazardous Substances)** of the European Parliament and of the Council restricts the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical-and electronic equipment. It thus regulates both the **use** and the **marketing** of corresponding substances in electrical devices and electronic components. The full directive can be viewed via the **EUR-Lex- platform**.

According to RoHS, the use of **lead** in electronic applications is generally **prohibited**. However, there are clearly defined **exemptions** in **Annex III of the Directive**, the validity of which is regularly reviewed by the EU- Commission. These include, among others:

- **Exceptions 6(a)-6(c):** Lead as an alloying element in **steel, aluminum and copper**
- **Exception 7(a):** Lead in **high-melting solders**
- **Exception 7(c):** Lead in **electrical or electronic components made of glass or ceramics**

These **exemptions are now gradually expiring**, as the European Commission has reviewed the validity dates of numerous lead exemptions and set a binding deadline of June 30, 2027 at the latest.

In order to continue to comply with the legal requirements of the RoHS-Directive and to ensure market access within the EU, we are switching our portfolio **completely to lead-free materials**. This switch will take place gradually and is **expected to be completed in 2027**, as lead-based exemptions will no longer be permitted from this date.

As the use of some components is currently still based on exemptions and these **cannot be immediately replaced by lead-free alternatives**, we work closely with our **suppliers**. The aim is to verify suitable replacement materials in good time and ensure that our entire portfolio continues to be **in full compliance with RoHS-** even after the new EU rules come into force in 2027.

This early and complete switch will ensure the long-term **legal compliance**, the **security of supply** and the **sustainability** of our products.

Hattersheim, February 2026



i.A. Janis Bayer
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