

Implementation of the European guidelines RoHS (2002/95/EC) and WEEE (2002/96/EC) as well as the ElektroG at SEW-EURODRIVE

SEW-EURODRIVE is taking a great interest in carefully selecting substances and materials that will not be harmful to people or the environment. After all, comprehensive environmental protection is an important objective in terms of safeguarding the future of the company and its workforce as are high product quality and efficient health and safety at work.

EU Directive RoHS (2002/95/EG)

The European Directive, which mainly applies to consumer goods, prohibits the use of lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chrome, poly-bromated biphenyl (PBB) or poly-bromated diphenylether (PBDE) in electrical or electronic units as of 1 July 2006. There will be maximum values of concentration in effect for these prohibited substances.

SEW-EURODRIVE has made it one of the company goals to implement the RoHS to reduce the number of harmful substances. A team is currently implementing the necessary measures.

We have increasingly been using "green" parts, i.e. parts free from harmful substances, in our products since 2004. The respective product may not be referred to as RoHS compliant until the last part is meeting the guidelines. We are using several components from the automotive industry in critical areas of our products to reach the quality standard requested by our customers. Automotive components are not subject to the RoHS yet. We have not been able to conclude all approval processes and qualifications for these special suppliers yet. SEW has decided not to make any concessions regarding the quality of these supplied components and to carefully review the required processes. All necessary investments have already been made and the associated process changes have been implemented as much as possible.

Electrical and electronic equipment law ElektroG and EU Directive WEEE (2002/96/EG)

The electrical and electronic equipment law (ElektroG) became effective on 24 March 2005. This law is the national (German) equivalent of the European Directive WEEE.

This law and the directive cover all electronics waste from private households and disposed equipment. Effective since 24 March 2006, citizens can return their electronics waste to the local authority (public waste disposal authority) free of charge. Old devices must not be disposed of in residual waste containers.

The ElektroG law also affects unit categories that do not belong to "private households", such as electrical devices from a medical practice or an engineering company if they are comparable with devices from private households. The products distributed by SEW-EURODRIVE do neither fall into the category of the ElektroG nor the WEEE Directive.

The laws and regulations that have already been implemented at SEW-EURODRIVE some time ago still apply to our industrial products. SEW-EURODRIVE will continue to process the repair and return of equipment based on the procedures that have been in place so far.

We can currently not make any binding statement regarding the final conversion date because we depend on the availability of RoHS compliant parts and components. We are still working closely with our suppliers on this issue and will make the conversion to RoHS compliant products as soon as suitable components will be available.

RoHS (Restriction of Hazardous Substances)

WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment)

For detailed information on RoHS and WEEE, refer to the [EUR-Lex](#) the portal to European Union law.