



Taking responsibility

Marconi's WEEE and RoHS Programme

Marconi is actively addressing the company's adherence to two European Commission environmental directives due to come into effect in 2005 and 2006.

The directives, WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) and RoHS (Restriction of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment), mean that producers:

- Will be responsible for a product at the end of its life.
- Should reduce the amount of hazardous materials put into products during production.

In 2002, Marconi put in place a cross-functional project team to address these issues, led by project director Alex Robinson and project manager Kevin Knapman. One of the main substances addressed by the RoHS directive is lead, and the team is driving a programme to produce several lead-free prototypes. The team is also working to ensure that:

- Responsibilities for what happens to a product when a customer wishes to dispose of it are precisely defined*.
- From July 1st 2006, our contract electronic manufacturers and component suppliers provide product that contains none of the substances banned in RoHS.
- We understand and manage the constraints imposed by using lead-free solder**
- We inform customers of progress towards providing RoHS-compliant product.

The UK Department of Trade and Industry has published three consultation documents, prior to draft UK legislation due later this year. The German, Dutch and French governments having already published drafts of their WEEE and RoHS legislation and other European member states are planning equivalent legislation.

Outside Europe, other countries are considering the introduction of similar regulations, particularly in the Far East. From the start of 2006, lead and other hazardous substances will be banned from products sold into China. And, whilst there are currently no indications that the USA will introduce similar legislation covering all states, some individual states are introducing legislation banning lead.

Marconi invites all customers to contact us to discuss further details of our programme or simply discuss further the implications of these directives.

* For products sold from 13 August 2005, we will agree the necessary arrangements at the time of sale. Where a customer wishes Marconi to handle the treatment and recycling of a Marconi product, we will provide details of how this will be achieved and agree with customers the arrangements for collection of the de-commissioned product. The customer may, of course, wish to retain responsibility for the product at the end of its life.

** For lead-free solder is currently in place for telecommunications equipment.

