



Office for Product
Safety & Standards



RoHS Regulations: Phthalates and Open Scope

What has changed?

July 2019 saw two significant changes to The Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances Regulations, commonly referred to as 'RoHS'.

July 2019 saw two significant changes to The Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances Regulations, commonly referred to as 'RoHS'. RoHS places obligations on businesses that manufacture, import or deal in electrical and electronic equipment (EEE), so contributing to the protection of human health and the environment.

These changes were:

- Four substances were added to the existing list of six restricted substances. (The existing restricted substances are lead, cadmium, mercury, hexavalent chromium and polybrominated biphenyls (PBBs) and polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs))
- The scope of RoHS was extended to additional EEE.

Additional restricted substances: Phthalates

Restrictions were introduced for the following four substances:

- Bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP)
- Butyl benzyl phthalate (BBP)
- Dibutyl phthalate (DBP)
- Diisobutyl phthalate (DIBP)

These phthalates are manufactured chemicals that are added to plastics to make them flexible and supple. Such substances fall into a class of chemicals colloquially known as 'plasticisers'.

The maximum concentration value tolerated by weight in homogenous materials contained in EEE, for all four of these substances, is 0.1%.

The restrictions on these phthalates came into force on 22 July 2019 for EEE, other than the following exemptions:

- medical devices and monitoring and control instruments, which are exempted until 22 July 2021;
- spare parts or cables that are used for the repair, reuse, updating of functionalities or upgrading of capacity of EEE placed on the market before 22 July 2019;
- spare parts or cables that are used for the repair, reuse, updating of functionalities or upgrading of capacity of medical devices and monitoring and control instruments placed on the market before 22 July 2021.

Open Scope

Previously, RoHS covered only categories of EEE specified in the regulations.

From 22 July 2019, all EEE is covered by RoHS unless the product is specifically excluded. The list of exclusions is set out in Part 2 of Schedule 1 to the regulations.

Exclusions can be viewed online. Just search '**RoHS 2019**' on **GOV.UK** to find out more.



What do I need to do?

Check whether any of your products – or their components – contain the additional restricted substances, paying particular attention to products that might have commonly contained phthalates, such as: USB cables or connectors; lights; video cables; computer mice; speakers; battery chargers; headphones and earphones.



Check that the concentration level, for products containing the additional restricted substances, is not exceeded.



Check whether any of your products which were not previously in scope of RoHS are now covered as a result of the change to open scope.



If you have reason to believe that some or all of the products you are responsible for may not comply with the RoHS Regulations you **must** notify the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) of any non-compliance and explain how you intend to address it.



A template for this is available online. Search '**RoHS 2019**' on **GOV.UK** to download.

Where can I find out more?

Further information is available on our webpage at:

www.gov.uk/guidance/rohs-compliance-and-guidance

The Regulations are available at:

www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/3032/contents

Revised guidance on Economic Operators' obligations will be available early 2020

Contact OPSS:

Helpline: +44 (0)121 345 1201

www.gov.uk/guidance/national-regulation-enforcement-services

Sign up for e-alerts on RoHS and related legislation:

public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKNMO/subscriber/new

