

Specific Questions

The current exemption 8b in Annex II of Directive 2000/53/EC (ELV Directive) is worded as follows:

Lead in "Solder in electric applications on glass" in "Vehicles type approved before 31 December 2010 and spare parts for these vehicles (review in 2009)"

Background

In the last review of Annex II of the ELV Directive in 2007/2008, a stakeholder (Antaya) had submitted information that he has a viable substitute for lead in this application, and asked for the cancellation of exemption 8b. Due to conflicting stakeholder views, it could not be decided during the review whether and how far the proposed indium-containing lead-free alternatives are a viable substitute to a degree that would allow the partial or complete cancellation of exemption 8b. The stakeholders intended setting up a mutually agreed test program in order to clarify the situation.

Questions

1. Please comment on the status and possible results of these activities. Do the results prove that the indium-containing solders comply with the requirements to a degree that would allow the complete or partial cancellation of exemption 8b?
2. If there are no adequate results from these or any other activities yet, please explain why this is not the case after around 1 year and provide a roadmap showing until when such results can be expected.
3. Is there any other evidence from any other test program or source on these indium-containing lead-free solders, or any other solders or interconnection technologies, that would justify repealing exemption 8b?