

Consultation Questionnaire Exemption No. 8(f)

Review of Exemption 8(f) “Lead in compliant pin connector systems”

Abbreviations and Definitions

CoPiCS compliant pin connector systems

Background

The Öko-Institut together with Fraunhofer IZM has been appointed by the European Commission within a framework contract¹ for the review of exemptions in Annex II of Directive 2000/53/EC (ELV Directive). The aim of this project is to evaluate whether the use of lead in the above mentioned exemption is still unavoidable and the continuation of the exemption is therefore justified in line with Art. (4)(2)(b)(ii) of the ELV Directive.

Annex II of the ELV Directive was reviewed in 2009. At that time it was assessed that lead-free solutions were not yet available for CoPiCS, even though the substitution of lead in CoPiCS had been proved to be viable in CoPiCS for applications in electrical and electronic equipment under the scope of the RoHS Directive. The main difference was that automotive CoPiCS use insertion forces in the range of 120 to 150 N, while for CoPiCS used in EEE in the scope of RoHS 20 to 50 N are sufficient.² As the stakeholders stated in 2009 that lead-free alternatives were under development, the exemption is now due for review, concerning its adaptation to scientific and technical progress.

Questions

1. Please explain the status of lead-free CoPiCS for use in automotive applications.

2. In case no lead-free solutions are available, please describe the efforts that have been undertaken so far, to make the use of lead in CoPiCS avoidable.

¹ Contract is implemented through Framework Contract No. ENV.C.2/FRA/2011/0020 led by Eunomia

² For details see Öko-Institut (2010), pages 109 to 118

3. Please indicate how much lead would be used under this application and substantiate the amount of lead with a calculation for vehicles put on the European market, and worldwide.

4. Please provide a roadmap towards ELV-compliance for applications where the use of lead in CoPiCS is still unavoidable. Please break down the roadmap into the stages to be performed and present and explain the related timelines.

2 References

- Ökoinstitut 2010 Stéphanie Zangl et al., Ökoinstitut; Otmar Deubzer, Fraunhofer IZM: Adaptation to scientific and technical progress of Annex II to Directive 2000/53/EC (ELV) and of the Annex to Directive 2002/95/EC (RoHS), final report; Freiburg, 28 July 2010; http://elv.exemptions.oeko.info/fileadmin/user_upload/Final_Report/Corr_Final_report_ELV_RoHS_28_07_2010.pdf, or https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/d/a4bca0a9-b6de-401d-beff-6d15bf423915/Corr_Final%20report_ELV_RoHS_28_07_2010.pdf; last accessed 4 September 2013