

## Letter to Suppliers from Director of Global Procurement

**Subject: European Union Restriction on Hazardous Substances (RoHS) – Supplier Roadmap**

Dear Valued Supplier,

In furtherance of our commitment to compliance with pending environmental legislation, including, but not limited to, European Union Directive 2002/95/EC on the Restriction on the use of certain Hazardous Substances in electrical and electronics equipment (“RoHS”), we are requesting additional information from our Suppliers. In accordance with a previous letter sent to all Suppliers to Benchmark Electronics, Inc., and its affiliates, we are currently seeking Supplier data concerning transition strategies and product life cycle support. This information is crucial in understanding what Parts will be available over the next few years, and to better assist our customers in developing compliant products.

More specifically, we are requiring that Suppliers complete the enclosed spreadsheet that details each Supplier’s roadmap for rolling out RoHS-compliant Parts and its plans to manage the associated changes. Please note that because some OEM’s are planning to continue production of non-RoHS compliant products through exemptions or for other customers not affected by environmental legislation, Benchmark is seeking to facilitate this continued use of both product lines for some customers.

The following are instructions explaining the document and how it should be completed.

**Column A:** list each distinct, orderable Part.

**Column B:** list the date on which each Part will be available as RoHS compliant (the Homogenous Material in each Restricted Substance must not exceed the Maximum Concentration Value for that particular Substance).

RoHS Restricted Substances: lead, mercury, hexavalent chromium, polybrominated biphenyls, polybrominated diphenyl ethers, and cadmium.

Homogeneous Material: material of uniform composition throughout that cannot be, in principle, separated into different materials by mechanical actions including, but not limited to, unscrewing, cutting, crushing, grinding, and/or abrasive processes.

Maximum Concentration Value: highest allowable concentrations of lead, mercury, hexavalent chromium, polybrominated biphenyls, polybrominated diphenyl ethers, or cadmium measured by weight in Homogenous Materials,

currently, 0.1 percent for lead, mercury, hexavalent chromium polybrominated biphenyls, and polybrominated diphenyl ethers; and 0.01 percent for cadmium.

**Column C:** List the date on which each Part will no longer be available in a leaded version (non-RoHS Compliant).

**Column D:** Will this Part have an entirely new Part number indicating RoHS compliance? Please indicate Yes (“Y”) or No (“N”).

These additional questions pertain to each Supplier’s general strategy regarding obsolescence and end-of-life notification, and their policies towards materials declarations and certificates of compliance.

- ✍ How will your customers be notified of obsolescence and end-of-life due to RoHS compliance: how far in advance, before the Parts become obsolete, will Benchmark be notified of obsolescence and end-of-life?
- ✍ If all RoHS compliant Parts will not be given new part numbers, please indicate how RoHS compliant Parts will be identified:
  - Describe your proposed inventory control procedures.
  - Will suffix or prefix additions be added to your current part number?
  - Will date code/lot codes be utilized?
  - How will assembly materials be marked, including outer and inner packaging?
- ✍ What is your policy for the return of non-RoHS compliant Parts?
- ✍ What is your policy for the submittal of certificates of compliance and material parts declarations:
  - Are you prepared to submit such declarations?
  - Do you have the necessary testing equipment and procedures in place, either in-house or externally, to verify such declarations?
    - ✍ If not, are you prepared to submit a credible chain of declarations that verifies your own declarations?

- Please note that Benchmark has sent each Supplier a separate letter asking for an IPC 1751/1752 Materials Declaration or a Certificate of Compliance for each distinct Part Number.

By the close of business on [~date~], please provide your responses using the attached Excel template. Please remember that RoHS goes into effect on **July 1, 2006**. It is imperative that planning be completed quickly so that on that date, each and every Part that lands in a RoHS-regulated area will be compliant with its specifications. In order to transition smoothly and efficiently, and in order to better facilitate future transactions with all of our Suppliers, this information is vital. A Supplier's failure to provide the requested information may make it difficult for Benchmark to continue working with this Supplier in the future. As such, your cooperation in complying with these requirements and providing prompt responses is greatly appreciated as an important part of being a Supplier to Benchmark. If you have any questions related to this letter, do not hesitate to email your concerns to [rohs@bench.com](mailto:rohs@bench.com) with a subject line of "RoHS Supplier Road-Map Question."

Thank you again for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

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