

## WEEE & RoHS

Directive 2011/65/EU (RoHS II) entered into force on 21 July 2011. The European Commission issued a [press release](#), which summarises the key elements of the Directive as follows and lists among the new products to fall gradually into scope thermostats, medical devices and control panels:

- *A gradual extension of the rules to all electrical and electronic equipment (EEE), cables and spare parts, with a view to full compliance by 2019;*
- *A review of the list of banned substances by July 2014, and periodically thereafter;*
- *Clearer and more transparent rules for granting exemptions from the substance ban;*
- *Improved coherence with the [REACH Regulation](#) on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals;*
- *Clarification of important definitions; and*
- *[CE marking](#) denoting compliance with European norms reserved for electronic products that also respect RoHS requirements.*

It also announces an update of the Commission's [RoHS FAQ guidance document](#) before the deadline for transposition in the Member States on 2 January 2013.

Orgalime has published its new RoHS II available for download free of charge at <http://publications.orgalime.org>.

On the WEEE Directive, the European Parliament's Environment Committee adopted a report, which proposes an open scope, cuts down the (scope) categories from 10 to 6 but introduces a set of scope exclusions, among which large-scale fixed installations and non-road mobile machinery made available exclusively for professional use. NRMM is described as "*machinery the operation of which requires either mobility while working or continuous or semi-continuous movement between a succession of fixed working locations, or machinery which is operated without being moved, but which may be equipped in such a way as to enable it to be moved more easily from one place to another*".

It is also proposed to revise the scope every five years. In addition and contrarily to the Council, the Environment Committee does not support a 6 years transitional period which means that these new provisions would apply 18 months after entry into force of the Directive. The Parliament is due to vote in Plenary in January 2012. In the meantime, it will enter in Trialogue discussions with the Commission and Council to find compromises before January.