

RoHS: RoHS Directive (Directive 2011/65/EU), explained

The RoHS Directive restricts lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, two brominated flame retardants and four phthalates in electrical and electronic equipment on the EU market, with manufacturers proving compliance through technical documentation, an EU declaration of conformity and CE marking. It has applied since 3 January 2013; from 13 August 2027 ECHA takes over assessing exemptions.

Reviewed 5 October 2026 by Conphora compliance team · Next review 13 March 2027 · Not legal advice

Key facts

Reference	Directive 2011/65/EU	Act type	Directive
In force	21 July 2011	Applies from	3 January 2013
Amended by	Commission Delegated Directive (EU) 2015/863, Directive (EU) 2017/2102, Commission Delegated Directive (EU) 2025/1802, Commission Delegated Directive (EU) 2025/2363, Commission Delegated Directive (EU) 2025/2364, Directive (EU) 2025/2456	Enforced by	National market surveillance authorities enforce the national laws transposing the directive with the powers of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020, which since 16 July 2021 replaces the market-surveillance chapter of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 that the directive cites; in Denmark, Miljøstyrelsen's chemicals inspection (Kemikalieinspektionen) supervises the Danish RoHS executive order, and importing or selling non-compliant equipment in Denmark is prohibited.
CELEX	32011L0065		

Key dates

8 June 2011	Directive 2011/65/EU adopted by the European Parliament and the Council as a recast of Directive 2002/95/EC	title and signature block after Art. 28
21 July 2011	Entry into force, the twentieth day after publication in OJ L 174 of 1 July 2011	Art. 27
2 January 2013	Deadline for Member States to transpose the directive and to notify their penalty rules to the Commission	Art. 23 and Art. 25(1)
3 January 2013	Directive 2002/95/EC and its amending acts repealed; the recast directive applies through national law	Art. 26
22 July 2014	Substance restrictions apply to medical devices and monitoring and control instruments placed on the market from this date	Art. 4(3)
24 June 2015	Delegated Directive (EU) 2015/863 in force: the four phthalates DEHP, BBP, DBP and DIBP added to Annex II with a 0,1 % limit, applying from 22 July 2019	Art. 1, Art. 2 and Art. 3
22 July 2016	Substance restrictions apply to in vitro diagnostic medical devices placed on the market from this date	Art. 4(3)
22 July 2017	Substance restrictions apply to industrial monitoring and control instruments placed on the market from this date	Art. 4(3)
11 December 2017	Directive (EU) 2017/2102 in force: pipe organs and non-road mobile machinery with a traction drive excluded, the secondary-market and spare-part rules for category 11 added; transposition by 12 June 2019	Art. 1, Art. 2 and Art. 3
22 July 2019	Open scope: restrictions apply to all other electrical	Art. 4(3) and Annex II

and electronic equipment that was outside Directive 2002/95/EC (category 11); the phthalate restriction applies to categories 1 to 7, 10 and 11

22 July 2021	The phthalate restriction applies to medical devices, in vitro diagnostic medical devices and monitoring and control instruments, including industrial ones	Annex II
1 January 2026	Directive (EU) 2025/2456 in force: from 13 August 2027 the European Chemicals Agency handles exemption applications and prepares restriction dossiers	Art. 1, Art. 2 and Art. 3
1 July 2026	Delegated Directives (EU) 2025/1802, 2025/2363 and 2025/2364 apply: renewed and narrowed Annex III exemptions for lead in high-melting-temperature solders (7(a)), lead in glass and ceramic components (7(c)) and lead as an alloying element in steel, aluminium and copper (6(a) to 6(c))	Art. 2; Art. 2; Art. 2
11 December 2026	Expiry of the general exemption 6(a) for lead in steel for machining and galvanised steel, and of 6(b)-I for lead in recycled aluminium for categories 1 to 7 and 10	Annex, points 6(a) and 6(b)-I
11 June 2027	Expiry of the general exemption 6(b) for lead as an alloying element in aluminium up to 0,4 % by weight and of 6(b)-II for categories 1 to 7 and 10	Annex, points 6(b) and 6(b)-II
30 June 2027	Expiry of exemptions 6(a)-I and 6(a)-II for lead in machining and hot-dip galvanised steel, 6(b)-I and 6(b)-II for aluminium in categories 9 industrial and 11, 6(b)-III for lead in	Annex; Annex, point 7(a); Annex, point 7(c)-I

aluminium casting alloys,
6(c) for copper alloys with up
to 4 % lead, 7(a) for lead in
high-melting-temperature
solders and 7(c)-I for lead in
glass or ceramic components

13 August 2027	Directive (EU) 2025/2456 applies: exemption applications go to the European Chemicals Agency, its committees give opinions within 12 months, the Commission decides within 9 months of the opinions, and Annex II is reviewed at least every four years on the basis of restriction dossiers	Art. 1 and Art. 2
31 December 2027	Expiry of the narrowed solder exemptions 7(a)-I to 7(a)-VII and of the glass and ceramic exemptions 7(c)-II, 7(c)-V and 7(c)-VI	Annex, points 7(a)-I to 7(a)-VII; Annex, points 7(c)-II, 7(c)-V and 7(c)-VI
22 July 2029	End of the derogation for reused spare parts recovered from category 11 equipment placed on the market before 22 July 2019 and used in equipment placed on the market before this date	Art. 4(5)(e)

Obligations by role

Manufacturer (including brand owners)

- Design and manufacture equipment so that it, including its cables and spare parts, contains no more than 0,1 % by weight of lead, mercury, hexavalent chromium, PBB, PBDE, DEHP, BBP, DBP or DIBP and no more than 0,01 % cadmium in any homogeneous material, unless an Annex III or IV exemption covers the application. Art. 4(1), Art. 4(2), Art. 4(6), Art. 7(a) and Annex II
- Draw up the technical documentation and carry out the internal production control procedure of Module A of Annex II to Decision No 768/2008/EC, or have it carried out; where another Union act requires a conformity assessment at least as stringent, RoHS compliance may be demonstrated within that procedure with a single technical documentation. Art. 7(b), Art. 7(c) and Art. 13(2)
- Draw up the technical documentation; where another Union act requires a conformity assessment at least as stringent, RoHS compliance may be shown within a single technical documentation.
Art. 7(b) and Art. 13(2)
- Carry out, or have carried out, the internal production control procedure of Module A of Annex II to Decision No 768/2008/EC. Art. 7(b)
- Draw up the EU declaration of conformity per Annex VI, translated into the languages the Member State requires, and affix the CE marking to the finished equipment or its data plate, or to the packaging and accompanying documents where the equipment does not allow it, before placing it on the market.
Art. 7(c), Art. 13 and Art. 15
- Draw up the EU declaration of conformity per Annex VI, translated into the languages the Member State requires. Art. 7(c) and Art. 13
- Affix the CE marking to the finished equipment or its data plate, or to the packaging and accompanying documents where the equipment does not allow it, before placing it on the market. Art. 7(c) and Art. 15
- Keep the technical documentation and the EU declaration of conformity for 10 years after the equipment was placed on the market, and keep series production in conformity, taking account of changes in design, characteristics and the standards or specifications referenced. Art. 7(d) and Art. 7(e)
- Keep the technical documentation and the EU declaration of conformity for 10 years after the equipment was placed on the market. Art. 7(d)
- Keep procedures in place for series production to remain in conformity, taking account of changes in design, characteristics and the standards or specifications referenced. Art. 7(e)
- Keep a register of non-conforming equipment and product recalls and keep distributors informed of it.
Art. 7(f)
- Mark the equipment with a type, batch or serial number or other identifier and with your name, registered trade name or trade mark and a single contact address, or where size or nature does not allow it, on the packaging or in an accompanying document; stricter marking rules in other Union acts prevail.
Art. 7(g) and Art. 7(h)
- Rely on harmonised standards published in the Official Journal for tests, measurements and assessments to obtain a presumption of conformity, and track the expiry dates of the Annex III and IV exemptions you use; apply for renewal at least 18 months before expiry, and from 13 August 2027 to the European Chemicals Agency. Art. 5(5), Art. 16(2) and Annex V; Art. 1 and Art. 2
- Track the expiry dates of the Annex III and IV exemptions you use and apply for renewal at least 18 months before expiry, from 13 August 2027 to the European Chemicals Agency.
Art. 5(5) and Annex V; Art. 1 and Art. 2
- If you consider or have reason to believe that equipment you placed on the market does not conform, immediately bring it into conformity, withdraw or recall it, and inform the competent authorities of the

Member States where you made it available with details of the non-compliance and the corrective measures. Art. 7(i)

- On a reasoned request, provide all information and documentation demonstrating conformity in a language the authority understands, cooperate on compliance action, and be able to identify your suppliers and customers for 10 years after placing the equipment on the market. Art. 7(j) and Art. 12
- On a reasoned request, provide all information and documentation demonstrating conformity in a language the authority understands, and cooperate on action to bring the equipment into compliance. Art. 7(j)
- Be able to identify the economic operators that supplied you and that you supplied, for 10 years after the equipment was placed on the market. Art. 12

Authorised representative

- Act under a written mandate that at least lets you keep the EU declaration of conformity and technical documentation at the disposal of the surveillance authorities for 10 years, provide conformity information and documentation on reasoned request, and cooperate with the authorities on compliance action. Art. 8(b)
- Do not take over the manufacturer's duty to design and manufacture to Article 4 or to draw up the technical documentation; those cannot form part of the mandate. Art. 8(a)
- Be able to identify the economic operators that supplied you and that you supplied for 10 years after placing the equipment on the market; you may also apply for exemptions on the manufacturer's behalf. Art. 12 and Annex V

Importer

- Place only compliant equipment on the market, and before doing so check that the manufacturer carried out the conformity assessment, drew up the technical documentation, affixed the CE marking, supplied the required documents and applied the identification and address markings; hold non-conforming equipment back and inform the manufacturer and the market surveillance authorities.

Art. 9(a), Art. 9(b) and Art. 9(c)

- Indicate your name, registered trade name or trade mark and a contact address on the equipment or, where not possible, on its packaging or in an accompanying document; stricter marking rules in other Union acts prevail. Art. 9(d)
- Keep a register of non-compliant equipment and recalls and keep distributors informed of it. Art. 9(e)
- If equipment you placed on the market does not conform, immediately take corrective measures, withdraw or recall it, and inform the competent authorities of the Member States concerned with details of the non-compliance and the measures taken. Art. 9(f)
- Keep a copy of the EU declaration of conformity for 10 years and ensure the technical documentation can be made available on request; provide conformity information on reasoned request in a language the authority understands, cooperate on compliance action, and identify suppliers and customers for 10 years. Art. 9(g), Art. 9(h) and Art. 12
- Keep a copy of the EU declaration of conformity for 10 years after placing on the market and ensure the technical documentation can be made available on request. Art. 9(g)
- On a reasoned request, provide all information and documentation demonstrating conformity in a language the authority understands, and cooperate on action to bring the equipment into compliance. Art. 9(h)
- Be able to identify the economic operators that supplied you and that you supplied, for 10 years after the equipment was placed on the market. Art. 12
- If you place equipment on the market under your own name or trade mark, or modify equipment in a way that may affect compliance, you carry the manufacturer's obligations under Article 7. Art. 11

Distributor (wholesaler or retailer)

- Act with due care and, before making equipment available, verify that it bears the CE marking, is accompanied by the required documents in a language consumers and end users in the Member State understand, and that the manufacturer and importer have applied their identification and address markings; hold non-conforming equipment back and inform the manufacturer or importer and the authorities. Art. 10(a) and Art. 10(b)
- If equipment you made available does not conform, make sure corrective measures are taken to bring it into conformity, withdraw or recall it, and immediately inform the competent authorities of the Member States concerned. Art. 10(c)
- On reasoned request, provide the information and documentation demonstrating conformity, cooperate on compliance action, and identify suppliers and customers for 10 years. Art. 10(d) and Art. 12
- On a reasoned request, provide all information and documentation demonstrating conformity in a language the authority understands, and cooperate on action to bring the equipment into compliance. Art. 10(d)
- Be able to identify the economic operators that supplied you and that you supplied, for 10 years after the equipment was placed on the market. Art. 12
- If you sell under your own name or trade mark or modify equipment in a way that may affect compliance, you take on the manufacturer's obligations. Art. 11

Penalties

Member States lay down the rules on penalties for infringements of their national transposing provisions; the penalties must be effective, proportionate and dissuasive and had to be notified to the Commission by 2 January 2013. Member States must also provide penalties for improper use of the CE marking, which may include criminal sanctions for serious infringements and must be proportionate to the seriousness of the offence. Market surveillance follows Regulation (EU) 2019/1020, which replaced the Articles 15 to 29 of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 that Article 18 of the directive cites, including controls on equipment entering the Union market, and manufacturers, importers and distributors must bring non-conforming equipment into conformity, withdraw or recall it and inform the authorities. In Denmark, the directive is implemented by the RoHS executive order, Miljøstyrelsen's chemicals inspection supervises the rules, and importing or selling non-compliant equipment is prohibited. Art. 23, Art. 15(3), Art. 18, Art. 7(i), Art. 9(f) and Art. 10(c)

Checklist

- 1. Confirm the product is electrical and electronic equipment under Article 3(1), assign its Annex I category and check that no Article 2(4) exclusion applies.
- 2. Decide your role for each product, remembering that selling under your own brand or modifying the equipment makes you the manufacturer (Article 11).
- 3. Break the product down into homogeneous materials and collect supplier declarations or test data for the ten Annex II substances against the 0,1 % and 0,01 % limits, including cables and spare parts (Articles 3(20) and 4).
- 4. Map every use of a restricted substance to a valid Annex III or IV exemption, record its expiry date and plan substitution or a renewal application 18 months before expiry (Articles 4(6) and 5).
- 5. Note the 2026 and 2027 expiries of the lead exemptions for steel, aluminium and copper alloys, high-melting-temperature solders and glass or ceramic components, and the 1 July 2026 application of the narrowed entries (Delegated Directives (EU) 2025/1802, 2025/2363 and 2025/2364).
- 6. Run internal production control per Module A and compile the technical documentation, or fold RoHS into an equally stringent assessment under another Union act with a single documentation (Articles 7(b), 7(c) and 13(2)).
- 7. Draw up the Annex VI EU declaration of conformity, affix the CE marking to the finished equipment, and keep both for 10 years (Articles 7(d), 13 and 15).
- 8. Mark the type or serial number and the manufacturer's and importer's name and address on the equipment or its packaging (Articles 7(g), 7(h) and 9(d)).
- 9. Keep a register of non-conforming equipment and recalls, inform distributors, and set up the corrective-action, notification and 10-year traceability procedures (Articles 7(f), 7(i), 9(e), 9(f), 10(c) and 12).
- 10. Follow the hand-over of exemption and restriction work to the European Chemicals Agency from 13 August 2027 and the four-yearly review of Annex II (Directive (EU) 2025/2456).

Sources

1. Directive 2011/65/EU on the restriction of hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment, consolidated text of 1 July 2026 (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:02011L0065-20260701>
2. Directive 2011/65/EU as published in OJ L 174, 1 July 2011 (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32011L0065>
3. Document information, dates and relationships for CELEX 32011L0065 (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32011L0065>
4. Commission Delegated Directive (EU) 2015/863 adding four phthalates to Annex II (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32015L0863>
5. Directive (EU) 2017/2102 amending Directive 2011/65/EU on scope, spare parts and exemption periods (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32017L2102>
6. Commission Delegated Directive (EU) 2025/1802 on lead in high melting temperature solders (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32025L1802>
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8. Commission Delegated Directive (EU) 2025/2364 on lead as an alloying element in steel, aluminium and copper (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32025L2364>
9. Directive (EU) 2025/2456 reattributing scientific and technical tasks to the European Chemicals Agency (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32025L2456>
10. Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 on accreditation and market surveillance (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32008R0765>
11. RoHS Directive (European Commission, DG Environment) — https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/waste-and-recycling/rohs-directive_en
12. Faktaark: Elektrisk og elektronisk udstyr, RoHS-bekendtgørelsen (Miljøstyrelsen) — <https://mst.dk/erhverv/sikker-kemi/kemikalier/regler-og-handlingsplaner/faktaark-om-kemikalierereglerne/faktaark-elektrisk-og-elektronisk-udstyr-rohs-bekendtgørelsen>

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