

INTRO

**TO THE FIELD OF ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT
TO THE MOST RECENT TECHNICAL INFORMATION**

Intro, Global Newsletter for Electrical & Electronics Business

N° 06 • 2008

MORE ATTENTION GIVEN TO THE SAFETY OF ELECTRIC TOYS

On 25 January 2008 the European Commission published the final proposal for the revision of European Directive 88/378/EEC relating to toy safety. The market surveillance will be strengthened for toys, and particularly for electrical and electronic toys. (Page 8)

NUMBER OF ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS WITH SEVERE DEFECTS INCREASES

The Finnish Safety Authorities (Tukes) has found numerous electrical products with more severe defects than in earlier years. Of 300 faulty products over 60 had severe defects. Co-operation with safety authorities in the other countries of the European Economic Area is important to maintain the safety level of the goods placed on the market. (Page 7)

STRONG DEVELOPMENT IN HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES REPORTING

The new IECCE Reporting service for hazardous substances (HS) can determine and report the level of Hazardous Substances in materials and components used in electrical equipment (not meant for end-products). (Page 9)

KOREAN RoHS - UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION

The Korean RoHS 'The Act for Resource Recycling of Electrical / Electronic Products and Automobiles' came into effect from January 2008. (Page 5)

THE FUTURE OF EU RoHS: MORE HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES BEYOND THE NOTORIOUS SIX



The EU RoHS review is in full swing. Anticipated for the next directive update is the publication of new exemptions for specific applications of the currently banned substances as well as the phasing-out of category 8 and 9 related product exemptions from the RoHS scope.

Beyond these changes which deal with the existing restricted substances there are new developments. The review of the EU RoHS is based on 2002/95/EC Article 5 with the perspective that as soon as scientific evidence is available and in accordance with the principles on chemicals policy, EU bodies shall decide on altering the scope of the directive.

This shall happen by reviewing the list of restricted substances on the basis of scientific findings and taking the

precautionary principle for the health and safety of consumers and the environment into account. (Page 3)

SGS

DEAR READER,

The year 2008 is all about improvements. In almost all industries authorities are looking for ways to improve regulations and set higher safety and ecological standards that will lessen the negative effects of new products on both consumers' health and the environment.

One of the major highlights in the beginning of 2008 is the review of the EU RoHS Directive which is meant to bring the now world-famous regulation in line with the latest technical advancements and scientific discoveries, especially in the field of chemistry. One important element of the reviewing process is the review by the German Öko Institut of a list of over 40 substances that might in the future be part of the scope of EU RoHS.

Along the same lines, the Chinese Authorities are trying to speed up the process of creating a Key Catalogue of Products that will form the scope of China RoHS. Several meetings and working groups are currently being held in order to find the best method. Hazardous substances are also the centre of attention in Korea, with the local version of RoHS in effect since 1 January 2008. At the same time the Norwegian authorities have decided to ban Deca-BDEs altogether, a measure unparalleled in any other country.

Improvement is the key word where product safety is involved. German authorities have recently decided to include PAHs testing as mandatory for the GS certification. This measure was desperately needed, because despite all the safety-related regulations, the number of products found to have severe defects increased in 2007. Special attention is given to the improvement and enforcement of the directive on the safety of toys. Gain insight from these stories and many others in the pages of our Spring newsletter.

SGS offers a wide range of solutions for your specific testing, certification and product development needs. Find out how SGS can support you in achieving your targets for this year by visiting our website: www.sgs.com/ee

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THE FUTURE OF EU RoHS: MORE HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES BEYOND THE NOTORIOUS SIX

The EU RoHS review is in full swing. Anticipated for the next directive update is the publication of new exemptions for specific applications of the currently banned substances as well as the phasing-out of category 8 and 9 related product exemptions from the RoHS scope.



(Continued from Page 1)

LIST OF BANNED SUBSTANCES MAY ENLARGE CONSIDERABLY

The Öko Institut (based in Freiburg/ Germany) which conducts the review for the European Commission uses declarations provided by suppliers and manufacturers of EEE, existing studies, XRF-analyses and other information as the basis for the review. As a result Öko Institut has provided a list of 46 substances or substance families for scrutiny according to a recent publication.

The suggested list of future potentially prohibited substances covers a large variety of chemicals including new heavy



metals and/or some of their compounds, brominated flame retardants other than PBB/PBDE, phthalate-based plasticizers but also "simple" organic chemicals like formaldehyde or even a polymer like PVC or inorganic fibres (glass/mineral wool/ ceramic); to name just a few.

The new substance list is subject to comments by the industry and their stakeholders. Publication of the list together with comments is scheduled for the end of April 2008.

WITH SGS YOU WILL BE PREPARED

As the world's leader in third party testing, SGS has already established analytical procedures to cover restricted substances far beyond the six substances limited by EU RoHS. SGS provides services to help your products meet future market requirements – whatever the legal frameworks might be.

Find the complete list of substances under review at:

www.sgs.com/rohs/new_substances

Find more information about the SGS RoHS testing and certification services at: www.sgs.com/rohs

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ROHS EXEMPTION OF DECA-BDE ANNULLED

The use of DecaBDE in polymeric applications, exempted by the European Commission in directive 2005/717/EC, will be prohibited again in EEE products by 30 June 2008. The exemption from the general requirements of directive 2002/95/EC was annulled by the European Court of Justice by its final judgment of 1 April 2008. The law case was initiated by the European Parliament due to its understanding that the European Commission committed a formal defect during the exemption process. The EC overstepped its authority which allows exempting specific uses of substances if no suitable replacements exist. Instead the DecaBDE exemption was based on a chemical/environmental risk-assessment study.

Find details on the judgement at:
www.sgs.com/decabde_annulled

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PREPARATION OF CHINA RoHS - KEY CATALOGUE IN PROGRESS

A meeting on controlling pollution in Electronic Information Products (EIP) was held in Beijing on 19 December 2007 by the China Quality Management Association for Electronics Industry (CQAE).

Stakeholders at the meeting discussed five relevant issues regarding the China RoHS Key Catalogue:

- Is it recommended to place products into the catalogue as soon as possible?
- Should raw materials be put into the catalogue first?
- Should the exempted items be introduced into the catalogue?
- Should all products in the key catalogue be feasible on related technology, economy and substitution?
- Is the existing CCC certification system ready to add to the RoHS certification?

SHAPING THE KEY CATALOGUE

Huang Jianzhong, officer of the Ministry of Information Industry (MII), introduced the six step process covering the preparation of the key catalog.

1. MII gathers proposals from industry associations, enterprises and other electronic information departments of local government
2. MII submits the proposals to a committee of experts for further technical and economical evaluation. The committee will then independently draft a report
3. After evaluation, this report will be published on the MII and other relevant websites
4. The report will also be submitted for consolidation to the office of controlling pollution in EIP, composed of seven government departments
5. The consolidated report will be submitted to WTO/TBT for notification, which takes about 90 days
6. The EIP will be put into the catalogue and enterprises will be provided with a transition period

The China RoHS working group, lead by MII, will hold a meeting in Guiyang to discuss the details of the Key Catalogue, between 15 and 18 April. As a member of the working group SGS will be represented by Dr. Sean Li, SGS Senior Technical Manager - Restricted Substances Testing Service for E&E products. The group will also discuss the factory audit procedure if China RoHS and CCC should be combined in future.

SGS IN CHINA RoHS LAB COOPERATIONS

On 12 December 2007 SGS-CSTC and Zhuhai Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau (Zhuhai CIQ) signed a cooperation agreement for setting up a RoHS laboratory in Zhuhai, Guangdong province. Zhuhai CIQ is the designated lab by the China Quality Certification Center (CQC) to be the authoritative China RoHS test laboratory in Guangdong province.

Through this cooperation, SGS and Zhuhai CIQ will leverage technology expertise, qualification and market resources on European and China RoHS testing to provide more comprehensive RoHS testing services for enterprises in the Guangdong region.

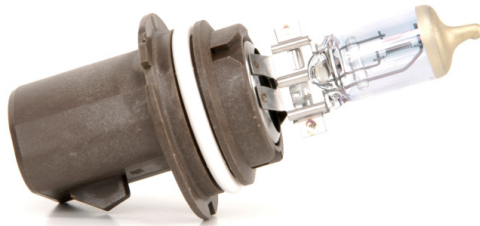
For more information on China RoHS visit: www.sgs.com/rohs

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KOREAN RoHS UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION

Korean RoHS has several differences compared to the European version, the main one being that it also includes the ELV and WEEE laws.



NORWAY BANS DECA-BDE IN CONSUMER PRODUCTS

Norway recently amended their Products Regulations (No. 922 from 1 June 2004) to ban Deca-BDE in all consumer products with some exemptions in the transport sector. Starting from 1 April the limits for Deca-BDE shall be no more than 0.1 %. The European Commission has not identified Deca-BDE as a significant risk to health and the environment and has exempted the substance from the EU RoHS Directive. At the same time the exemption of Deca-BDE was annulled by a judgement of the European Court on 1 April 2008 due to an initiative of the European Parliament. Products exempted by the new Norwegian regulation:

- Vehicles which are approved in the Norwegian Vehicle Construction Regulation
- Aircrafts recorded in the Norwegian Civil Aircraft Register
- Vessels recorded in the Norwegian International Ship Register
- Rolling stock for use on a railway, including trams, metros, etc.

Find more information at:

www.sgs.com/rohs

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SELF REPORTING PRINCIPLE

All manufacturers and importers in the fields of electrical & electronics and automobiles, need to fill in bulletins with recycling characteristics of their products on the ECOAS (<http://www.ecoas.or.kr/>) home page or can directly inform ENVICO (Korea Environment & Resources Corporation).

All companies must improve their recycling rate and recycling possibility rate by 2014 and 2009 respectively. At the same time, enterprises have to submit to the Korean government their recycling responsibility rate for the following year at the end of every year. Another request is to specify the quantities of sold goods for the previous year by April 15 of each year. A failure to fulfil all of these requirements will make companies liable to pay a fine not exceeding ~30,8k USD (30 million KRW).

SCOPE OF PRODUCTS

The main targets of the regulation are automobiles such as: vans and small trucks as well as the following groups of electrical & electronic products:

- Television sets
- Refrigerators
- Washing machines (household only)
- Air conditioners

- Personal computers (incl. monitor & keyboard)
- Audio (excluding portable devices)
- Mobile phones (incl. battery & charger)
- Printers (incl. toner & cartridge)
- Photocopiers (incl. toner & cartridge)
- Facsimiles (incl. toner & cartridge)

The Korean RoHS bans the same hazardous substances as the EU RoHS and also includes the same exceptions. It's based on a self-declaration system, with no special mark needed and does not apply to parts manufactured before 2008 and Research & Development samples.

The Korean government expects the regulation to influence manufacturers to consider environmentally friendly designs for their goods and to improve the cooperation between manufacturers and recyclers.

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MANDATORY PAH TESTING FOR GS CERTIFICATION



The German committee AtAV (Ausschuss für technische Arbeitsmittel und Verbraucherprodukte – technical tools and consumers products) decided on the mandatory PAH (Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons) testing for GS certification on the basis of document ZEK 01-08 issued by the German Accreditation Body ZLS.

According to this, GS Certification Bodies must implement the new requirement from April 1, 2008. The requirements also cover the existing SGS GS certifications. There have been at least two recalls in Germany concerning PAHs when the requirement was still voluntary. The PAH requirement shall ensure that all GS certified products fulfil the statutory requirements concerning PAH, e.g. PAHs have been found in the cable jacket, housing and handle of an angle grinder. PAHs were also found in the plastic finishing of a hammer's handle.

THE ZLS TIMELINE FOR PAH & GS MARK

- For certificates issued from 1 April 2008 onwards (including ongoing projects which will be completed after this date), the new PAH requirement needs to be fulfilled.
- Certificates issued before 1 April 2008 will remain valid for the time being. Within the framework of periodical control measures, the provision defined above is mandatory.

LIMITS FOR PAHS

The limits for consumer goods (including materials in contact with foodstuff as well as toy materials intended to be put in the mouth and child care products) are according to the table below:

PARAMETER	CATEGORY 1	CATEGORY 2	CATEGORY 3
	Material in contact with foodstuff, or materials intended to be put in the mouth and toys for children age of < 36 months	Materials with foreseeable contact to skin for longer than 30 seconds (long-term skin contact) and toys not covered by category 1	Materials with foreseeable contact to skin up to 30 seconds (short term skin contact) or without skin contact
Benzo(a)pyrene mg/kg	Not detectable (< 0.2)	1	20
Sum 16 PAH (EPA) mg/kg	Not detectable (< 0.2)	10	200

TESTING REQUIREMENT

Only the analysis reports of accredited laboratories following exactly specified test methods may be approved as basis for the GS certification. The PAH testing for the GS focuses mostly on:

- Materials in food contact or which may be put in the mouth as well as toys for children younger than 3 years.
- Functional grip or actuation surfaces made of polymers (plastic and rubber) and materials with foreseeable skin contact even in case of a slight misuse of the product.

- Materials with a distinctive odour that might have been treated with preservation chemicals (naphthalene and methylnaphthalene) which lead to elevated concentrations of PAH.

The following materials do not need to be included in the evaluation:

- Materials which are not accessible or only accessible with the help of tools
- Materials which through a risk analysis, are identified as not relevant for testing for PAH

HELP FROM SGS

SGS helps you to control the risk. SGS has participated in the development of the PAH test method required for the GS mark and have thus established expertise throughout our worldwide network for PAH testing for the GS certification.

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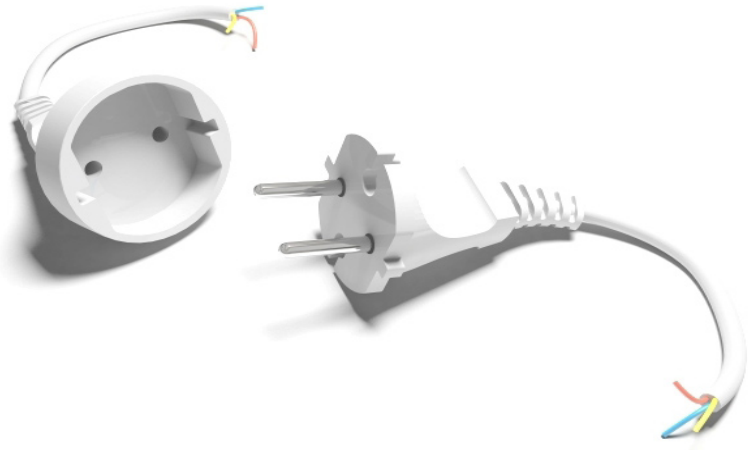
NUMBER OF ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS WITH SEVERE DEFECTS INCREASES

In 2007 the Finnish Safety Authorities (Tukes) carried out 2500 surveillance projects in shops, at manufacturer and importer premises and had 730 electrical products tested. 67 products with severe defects were found. This amount is almost twice that of 2006.

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RISK OF ELECTRICAL SHOCK THE MOST FREQUENT

Severe safety defects that may cause electrical shock or fire hazard were found among others in DVD-players, car cabin heaters, cord extension sets and LED lamps. 88 products received a sales ban and in 19 cases the importers were ordered to collect the products back from the buyers. Dangerous rubber cords were found in car cabin heaters and cord extension sets. Part of the so-called weather-proof rubber cords did not withstand cold temperatures. In



worst cases they broke during testing in cold temperatures and live cords became accessible. Exposure to live cords is a dangerous risk especially if the cable is connected to the main.



SGS A PROUD PARTNER FOR ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

SGS sponsored the first edition of the International Advanced Mobility Forum (IAMF) from 11-13 March 2008, during the Geneva International Motor Show. The event was a scientific and public forum, dealing with individual mobility for the future. It focuses on hybrid, electric technologies, fuel cells, new fuels, new technologies, and future trends. Dr. Helmut Wiedemann represented SGS during the Alternative Fuels lecturing session chaired by Berett a Joseph – R&D PSA Peugeot Citroën, with a presentation on "Energy Storage and New Fuels for Mobility Tomorrow".

For more information about this event contact us at:
SGS.Events@sgs.com

Find more information about IAMF at: <http://www.iamf.ch/en/>

Cooperation from the authorities of the European countries has been vital. Tukes sent 146 notices regarding defective products to the member countries and received 263 notices. Of these approximately 50% were related to light fittings.

IMPROVE ON YOUR PRODUCT'S SAFETY

The tests and the SGS FI mark certification granted by SGS Finland and the Product Safety mark granted by SGS offices worldwide are the most reliable way to make sure products placed on the markets of your interest are safe.

List of certified products can be found for SGS Fimko at www.fi.sgs.com/fimko and for SGS Product Safety at www.sgs.com/certification-database.

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MORE ATTENTION GIVEN TO THE SAFETY OF ELECTRIC TOYS

On 25 January 2008 the European Commission published the final proposal for the revision of European Directive 88/378/EEC relative to toy safety.

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The proposed changes are:

- Definition of the obligations of economic actors
- EC declaration of conformity drawn up by the manufacturer
- Safety and risk assessments (to be kept in the technical documentation)
- Production control requirements
- Chemical and mechanical properties requirements

ACTIVELY ENFORCING REGULATIONS

Many recent product recalls have involved remote-controlled or electric toys. The batteries inside a toy can

overheat and possibly catch fire. This poses a burn or fire hazard to consumers. In addition to the mechanical, physical and chemical tests, electrical toys have to be tested for electrical safety. Electrical testing mainly covers short-circuit testing, resistance to heat testing and the checking of labelling requirements.

R&TTE, EMC AND RoHS ALSO APPLY

Toy radio controlled models also have to comply with the R&TTE Directive in addition to the requirements of the toy directive 88/378/EEC. Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) requirements (EU Directive 2004/108/EC) deal with the



ability of the product to be immune to EMC phenomena and to ensure that EMC emissions do not interfere with other products.

Moreover electrical and electronic toys are required to meet the RoHS Directive and carry a wheeled bin symbol (WEEE Directive) if they need electricity to fulfil their basic primary function.

SGS offers quality assurance services for electronic and electrical toys including both specialized services and comprehensive testing. SGS Product Safety Integrity Engineering service (PIE) can help ensure toys meet safety and industry requirements beginning at the design stage.

Find out more about SGS services for toys at: www.sgs.com/toys for Product Safety, EMC, RoHS & WEEE at: www.sgs.com/ee

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AUSTRALIAN MEPS FOR EXTERNAL POWER SUPPLIES

It now looks likely that from 1 October 2008 most External Power Supplies with a nameplate output power rating up to 250 Watts intended for sale in Australia or New Zealand will need to meet specified Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) subject to a regulatory impact statement and approval by the Ministerial Council on Energy.

Products covered include external power supply units with a nominal 230 V AC supply input and a single output at extra low voltage (ELV), either AC or DC, and a maximum output of 250 W or 250 VA. This includes units with an integral mains plug, 'in-line' units and units with provision for equipment to sit in a cradle whilst being used.



GET A QUICK AND FREE PRODUCT SAFETY OVERVIEW

SGS, as an independent certification body, offers you a quick overview of all the products it has certified.

Check under:

www.sgs.com/certification-database all the tested electrical & electronic products.

Product Safety seems logical but accidents could have harmful consequences. There are so many different safety requirements worldwide an electric product has to fulfill that this database is a tool for buyers, retailers and importers to have a quick overview of our tested products. The SGS Product Certification Database including the following SGS marks: GS (Geprüfte Sicherheit), Keymark, ENEC & HAR mark, Product Safety, EMC, Bauart Geprüft (Type Approved), USTC, Cebec, Fimko, RoHS, TÜV-GS and TÜV-Bauart Geprüft. The database includes multiple parameters, e.g. character of certification mark, validation of the mark, contract number, licence number, trade name etc.

THE GOAL IS HIGHER EFFICIENCY

Following the October deadline, power supplies of between 49 and 250W output will need to be at least 84% efficient, with the option of claiming high efficiency if 85% or greater. Standby power will also need to be less than 0.75W for standard and 0.5W for high efficiency EPS. Items currently under consideration for future regulation include, standby power for consumer electronics, household goods and information technology equipment.

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STRONG DEVELOPMENT ON HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES REPORTING

The new IECEE Reporting Service for Hazardous Substances (HS) can determine and report the level of HS in materials and components used in electrical equipment (not meant for end-products).

(Continued from Page 1)

A SERVICE TO FULFIL THE NEEDS OF THE INDUSTRY

This service was developed by the IECEE because of:



- Globally different requirements for HS
- Testing methods and test results varying between laboratories
- Market surveillance on HS has begun
- A need for reliable tools to verify and demonstrate the level of HS

KEY BENEFITS

- A test report in accordance with IEC 62321 produced by an IECEE HS laboratory
- Reliable test results based on a controlled network of independent laboratories & NCBs
- A tool for the industry to verify and demonstrate the level of HS in electrical products
- Eliminates double testing and costs
- It offers online access to the IECEE reports
- Impartial HS Statement of Tests Results by an NCB

CREATING HARMONISED QUALITY REQUIREMENTS

This service is aimed at controlling and harmonizing quality requirements during the analytical testing as well as globally recognized reports over all participating test companies. The Reporting service is based on NCBs (National Certification Bodies) and controlled by the Peer Assessment Scheme as well as regular round-robin testing programs. Based on the test results, the



certification bodies will issue HS Statement of Test Results. The website of the scheme is www.iecee.org and in the future the test results will be published on this site.

SGS INVOLVED IN SHAPING THE IECEE REPORTING

SGS acts as a Convenor of the IECEE working group developing the new service with other members from Australia, Belgium, Netherlands, Japan, China, France, Germany and United States.

SGS will offer the IECEE Reporting Service via its NCBs:

- SGS Finland
- SGS Belgium

The service will be offered to the market after the IEC 62321 standard is published, currently targeted for September of 2008.

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CHECK THE LIST OF PRODUCT RECALLS

SGS collects, for all parties interested, the notifications of unsafe products in the US and the European market. The recalls are classified by product category to facilitate direct access to a category of interest. Every 2 weeks, SGS sends you, through an email named Product Recalls, the product name, the risk category and if any, the applicable standards and regulations with which the product did not comply. This enables you to be updated on sales bans, withdrawals and recalls within your business. This constantly updated list of notified unsafe products will allow you to stay up to date with major product concerns of national authorities and to avoid selecting unsafe products when importing / exporting to a certain country.

To regularly receive the SGS Product Recalls list contact us at:
product.recalls@sgs.com

WIRELESS NOVELTIES & GREEN SOLUTIONS

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WMC 2008

More than 55,000 visitors attended the WMC 08 to do business and debate the future of the mobile phone industry. At an additional three-day conference approximately 230 chief executives and other high-level speakers from across the world spoke in front of 8,000 delegates.

The mobile phone industry presented its latest innovations in Barcelona, between 11-14 Feb., higher resolution camera phones; more memory; high speed access for the mobile Internet; walkman mobiles; phones with WiFi and more; New product introductions from LG, Sony-Ericsson, Samsung and Nokia together with several new smart phones are just a few of the many highlights. The hottest question was what will the next mobile network look like? And, how will it transfer floods of data at high speed to the cell phone? LTE or WiMAX?. The rapid development cycles and the increasing customer and operator demands are still the main drives for handset manufacturers and at the same time the main burden for the wireless industry.

The WMC allowed SGS Wireless Group (www.sgs.com/wireless) to show we are placed to provide services for the technologies and applications to come. Shows like WMC, coupled with close customer relations guide the further development of our testing capabilities and range of certifications to continue being a reliable partner for the major players in the Wireless industry. The show presented again a great opportunity to showcase the SGS Wireless spectrum of services. The main focus for SGS was on our Wireless certification testing for conformance to national, international and global certification schemes (PTCRB, R&TTE, GCF) which are vital when entering global marketplaces. The business opportunities created at the show also encompassed SGS's Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, EMC, Safety, CCF, CDMA, SAR etc.



THE "NEW" CEBIT

The world largest information and communication technology show, Cebit 2008, increased its attendance by 3% to 495,000 compared to the previous year, even though the exhibition duration was cut by one day. With more than 5,800 exhibitors Cebit showed a "sharp profile" of the IT industry.

The main theme of the computer fair was Green IT, environmentally friendly information technology. Other priorities included mobile Internet, telematics and navigation, safety and the shortage of skilled labour.

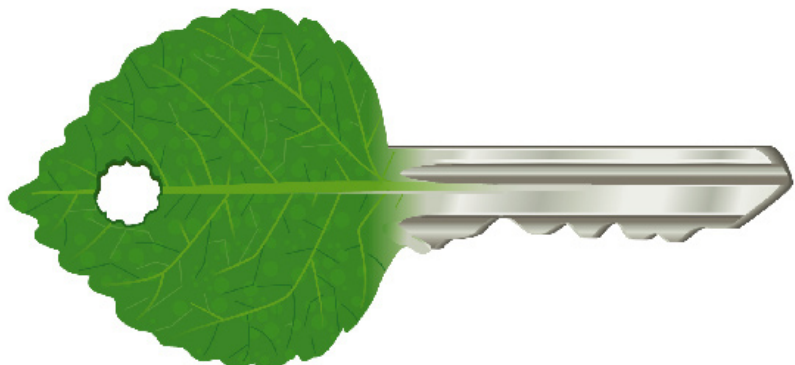
With the adoption and implementation throughout the European Union of new environmental directives and requirements, a new "ENVIRONMENTAL/GREEN" segment of production criteria was created. Restricted Substances – RoHS (www.sgs.com/rohs), WEEE - Waste of Electrical & Electronic Equipment (www.sgs.com/weee) and REACH - Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals

(www.sgs.com/reach) are the newest directives and EuP – Energy using Products (www.sgs.com/eup) is the new eco-design guideline.

These measures were adopted since the promotion of environmentally-friendly products is one of the major concerns throughout the EU not only at political and economic level but most importantly at the consumer level. As a result, either forced by the new regulations or by their own initiative, manufacturers, regardless of the strength of their brand names, will have to start using "GREEN" production methods if they want to remain on the edge and be seen as environment and consumer friendly.

SGS presented at Cebit its global network and expertise, offering solutions for the transition to GREEN production methods through its consulting, product testing, certification and inspection set of services.

Find out what solutions SGS has for your business at: www.sgs.com/ee



GET IN TOUCH - WITH THE BEST NETWORK

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