

SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONICS

NO. 179/12 OCT 2012

EN 50581 - NEW MANAGEMENT STANDARD FOR ROHS2 TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION

On July 21st 2011 the directive 2011/65/EU¹ (referred to as RoHS2) on the Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment became European Law and will be implemented in EU Member States from January 2nd 2013. Since RoHS2 is a CE Marking Directive, Manufacturers need to provide technical documentation according to Decision 768/2008/EC Annex II Module A² to demonstrate RoHS compliance. The European Commission initiated a process to develop a harmonized standard to guide manufacturers on their way to correct technical documentation. This standard EN 50581:2012 was made available on September 21st 2012 by CENELEC³ and will be published in the Official Journal of the European Union soon.

Including RoHS restrictions in the technical documentation of Electric and Electronic Equipment is one of the challenges arising from the RoHS2 CE marking requirements. In principle manufacturers are free to choose whatever approach is suitable to their needs as long as it satisfies Directive 2011/65/EU Articles 4(1), 13, and 14. It is stated in Directive 2011/65/EU Article 16 (2) that an assessment performed on the basis of a harmonized standard will be presumed to be conforming to the RoHS2 directive.

The European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC) was given a mandate in October 2011 by the European Commission to develop a standard manufacturers may use for RoHS2 technical documentation. This project resulted in the (to be harmonized) standard EN 50581:2012 "Technical documentation for the evaluation of electrical and electronic products with respect to restriction of hazardous substances".

The aim of the standard is to specify the technical documentation a manufacturer will have to collect for applicable substance restrictions in order to demonstrate compliance with the directive. The standard's key elements of the technical documentation are



¹ [SGS-Safeguard 123/11: RoHS II published in the Official Journal of the European Union](#)

² <http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:218:0082:0128:en:PDF>

³ [Project: EN 50581:2012](#)

SGS

- A general description of the product
- Documents for materials, parts, and/or sub-assemblies
- Information connecting the technical documents and respective materials, parts and/or sub-assemblies
- A list of harmonized standards and/or technical specifications used to prepare the technical documents

The most important and critical part is obviously the documentation of materials, parts, and/or sub-assemblies with relevance to restricted substance information. The standard gives guidance on

- What tasks a manufacturer needs to engage in
- How to decide on relevant information
- What relevant information to gather
- How to evaluate the information
- What review processes to follow

Additionally the document shows a process scheme a manufacturer shall follow for the technical documentation as well as the relationship between Directive 2011/65/EU Article 7(b), standard EN 50581, and the technical documentation.

SGS as the world's leader in third party testing has established procedures to cover a large variety of legal requirements related to your products. The global footprint of SGS will provide solutions wherever you are. Our experts may support you in product compliance with consumer product related requirements. Regardless if you are in need of chemical testing or services in the fields of inspection, certification, compliance assurance, outsourcing, training or auditing SGS is dedicated to satisfy your needs. Providing service to help your products to be fit for the market requirements of the future – whatever the legal frameworks might be.

FOR ENQUIRIES:

Global Competence Support Centre: gcsc@sgs.com
DE-Udo Krischke +49 6128 744 235 or Udo.Krischke@sgs.com

Asia – Hong Kong. Tel: +852 2334 4481 Fax: +852 2144 7001 mktg.hk@sgs.com
Australasia – Perth. Tel: +61 (0) 3 9790 3418 Fax: +61 (0) 3 9701 0988 au.cts@sgs.com
Europe – London – UK. Tel: +44(0) 203 008 7860 Fax: +44 (0) 203 00 7870 gb.cts.sales@sgs.com
Africa & Middle East – Turkey. Tel: +90 212 368 40 00 Fax: +90 212 296 47 82 sgs.turkey@sgs.com
Americas – USA. Tel: +1 973 575 5252 Fax: +1 973 575 7175 uscts.inquiries@sgs.com

www.sgs.com/cts Global Competence Support Centre: gcsc@sgs.com

If you wish to unsubscribe to this technical bulletin, go here: [Unsubscribe](#)

© 2012 SGS SA. All rights reserved. This is a publication of SGS, except for 3rd parties' contents submitted or licensed for use by SGS. SGS neither endorses nor disapproves said 3rd parties contents. This publication is intended to provide technical information and shall not be considered an exhaustive treatment of any subject treated. It is strictly educational and does not replace any legal requirements or applicable regulations. It is not intended to constitute consulting or professional advice. The information contained herein is provided "as is" and SGS does not warrant that it will be error-free or will meet any particular criteria of performance or quality. Do not quote or refer any information herein without SGS's prior written consent.