

# SAFEGUARDS

## CONSUMER GOODS AND RETAIL

ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONICS

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## EVALUATION OF 4 NEW RoHS SUBSTANCE RESTRICTIONS STARTED

The European Commission recently published a methodology draft manual<sup>1</sup> to identify and evaluate new substances as required by the RoHS 2 Directive 2011/65/EU, Article 6 for an eventual restriction under Annex II. The methodology draft manual was developed by the Austrian Umweltbundesamt and relies basically on three major pillars to assess restricted substance candidates. The European Commission selected four substances for a public consultation, namely the flame retardant Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCDD) and the phthalates Bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP), Butyl benzyl phthalate (BBP) as well as Dibutyl phthalate (DBP) which have already been included as priority substances in the recital part of RoHS 2.

### PROCESS OF SUBSTANCE RESTRICTIONS

Substance restriction proposals may be introduced by the European Commission or EU Member States. The new methodology draft manual identifies three major parts for inclusion of substance in RoHS 2, Annex II:

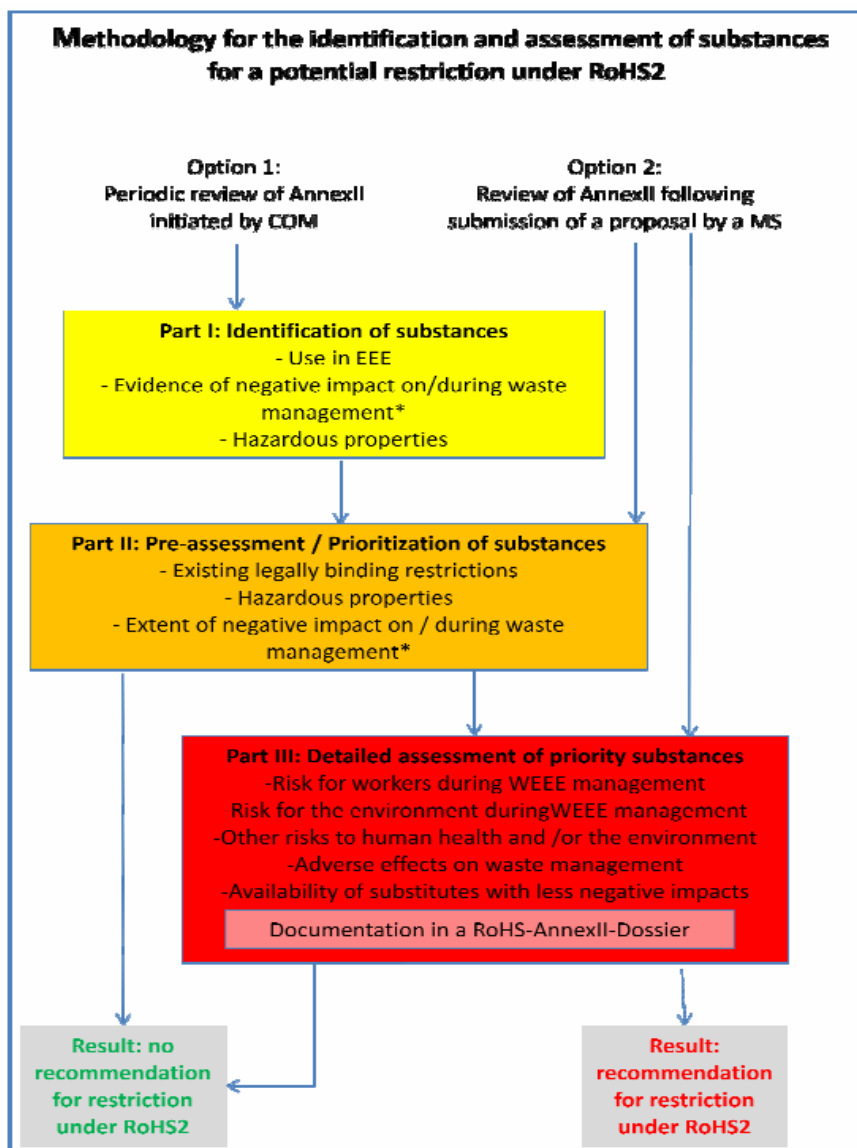
- Part I: Identification of substances used in Electric and Electronic Equipment (EEE) which may have negative impacts on human health, the environment or resource efficiency during Waste EEE management according to RoHS Article 6 (1) a, b, and c)
- Part II: Pre-assessment: Prioritization of substances used in EEE, which may most likely have negative impacts on human health, the environment or resource efficiency during WEEE management according to RoHS Article 6 (1) a, b, and c.
- Part III: Detailed assessment of high priority substances with the view to a potential restriction under RoHS 2

All parts include detailed chapters which consider important aspects to make the appropriate decision and further detail the rationales for substance restriction. The process flow is indicated in figure 1 on following page.



<sup>1</sup> [European Commission-Environment-News and Draft Manual-Methodology for Identification and Assessment of Substances for Inclusion in the List of Restricted Substances \(Annex II\) under the RoHS2 Directive](#)

FIGURE 1: OVERVIEW OF THE METHODOLOGY FOR NEW SUBSTANCE IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT (\*DIRECTIVE 2011/65/EU, ARTICLE 6 (1) A, B, C)<sup>2</sup>



**FIRST SET OF SUBSTANCES TO BE EVALUATED**

A 4th public consultation on the assessment of selected substances was initiated to evaluate the first set of substances HBCDD, DEHP, BBP and DBP to be potentially included in RoHS 2, Annex II. The period of this public consultation is set to end mid November and includes a 3rd stakeholder meeting on the assessment of selected substances scheduled for 28 October 2013.

The public consultation will be completed on 20 December 2013 with the publication of the final report on the developed methodology for identification and assessment of substances. Additionally the conclusion of the identification and assessment as well as draft recommendations for inclusion of substances in the list of restricted substances of RoHS 2 will be presented.

<sup>2</sup> Source: [Draft Manual-Methodology for Identification and Assessment of Substances for Inclusion in the List of Restricted Substances \(Annex II\) under the RoHS2 Directive](#), page 13

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