

RoHS and WEEE

Wilcom is committed to providing its worldwide customers with telecommunications test and measurement products, telephone line-conditioning products, and DSL splitter products that meet the highest standards of performance and reliability while maintaining a high level of environmental awareness and protection.

Currently the European Union (EU) is setting the benchmark for environmental stewardship in the electronics industry. On 27 January 2003 the EU adopted two measures, Directive 2002/96/EC on waste electrical and electronic equipment, known as the "WEEE Directive" and Directive 2002/95/EC on restrictions of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment, known as the "RoHS Directive". These Directives are not directly applicable in the laws of the EU and EEA Member States but have to be implemented in the national laws of those states.

WEEE

The WEEE Directive, aims to minimize the impact of electrical and electronic equipment on the environment during its life time and when it becomes waste. The Directive encourages and sets criteria for the collection, treatment, recycling and recovery of waste electrical and electronic equipment.

It makes the producer (as defined in the Directive, which may in some cases be the non-manufacturing brand owner or the importer into the community) responsible for financing most of these activities. Private householders are to be able to return WEEE without charge. Wilcom has worked to make all products compliant with the EU and EEA laws implementing this Directive. Wilcom considers that the only products that it currently sells in the EU or EEA namely fiber-optic test equipment and copper test equipment cannot be considered as intended for private use. Wilcom will comply with all obligations relating to products that are not for private use.

RoHS

The RoHS Directive will require EU and EEA Member States to ban the placing on the market of new electrical and electronic equipment containing more than defined levels of lead, cadmium, mercury, hexavalent chromium, polybrominated biphenyl (PBB) and polybrominated diphenyl ether (PBDE) flame retardants after 1 July 2006.

Categories 3 and 9 as defined in Annex 1B of the WEEE Directive are relevant to Wilcom products. Category 3 products are "IT and Telecommunications Equipment" and category 9 products are "Monitoring and Control Instruments"

The only products that Wilcom currently sells in the EU or EEA are fiber-optic test equipment and copper test equipment. All Wilcom fiber-optic test equipment and copper test equipment falls under category 9, "Monitoring and Control Instruments". Category 9 products do not fall under the requirements of RoHS and are thus exempt from the obligation to comply with national laws of the EU and EEA implementing the RoHS Directive. However, Wilcom is working to reduce or eliminate all restricted hazardous materials on existing and future products.

To the extent that other Wilcom-manufactured Line Treatment and DSL splitter products fall under the requirements of the RoHS Directive they all fall within Category 3, "IT and Telecommunications Equipment". Category 3 products have an exemption from in relation to content of lead in lead based solder where this is required to ensure the highest level of reliability. Wilcom category 3 products are currently under review for RoHS compliance (meaning compliance with the EU and EEA national laws implementing the RoHS Directive). All RoHS compliant products will be clearly marked once they become available.