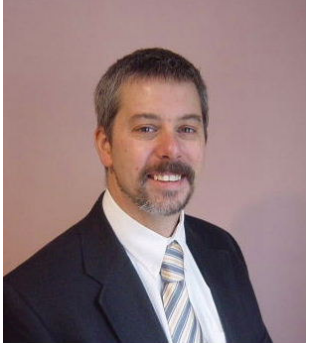


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Editorial

Well what a start to the New Year!

Most of the industry focus is on China RoHS and included in this issue is an article I wrote on the steps needed to convert EU RoHS to China RoHS. This has been circulated widely on the Internet through various newsgroups.

The hard work on the China RoHS Guidance Notes was clearly well appreciated by industry with heaps of downloads and 100% positive feedback. We are now up to Version 1.6. If you are affected by China RoHS and haven't yet purchased a copy, I urge you to have a look at our web page (linked from www.rohs-international.com) and see some of the feedback that we have had. I am happy to respond to questions on China RoHS from individuals who have purchased the Guidance Notes - all part of the service.

I have included a copy of my Discussion Paper on the China RoHS Environmentally Friendly Use Period (EFUP). I have fielded many questions on what exactly is the EFUP. The draft standards have not exactly cleared things up. This is partly due to literal translations being done by lawyers with no technical editing. Something I have tried to address

We have been getting a lot of work from companies wanting an independent third party to assess their database of Certificates of Compliance against our preset criteria of acceptance and assess for China RoHS Categories. This kills two birds with one

stone as we can do both jobs at the same time. This gives a good level of due diligence for the EU and allows us to use our technical knowledge to assess whether each component contains a restricted substance by EU Exemption (which needs to be declared for China RoHS). From our work over the years, we have a very good idea what component types contain what substances. Most CoCs do not explicitly state exemptions. We are very happy to take on more of this type of work as we would be one of the few consultancies capable of this.

Our USA based partners, The GoodbyeChain Group won the SMT Vision Award for software with their MDW/1752 product. This is great recognition for a product that is truly ahead of its time and will give early adopters a real competitive advantage in years to come.

The early year training schedule is fast coming up with the addition of our Government Sponsored industry seminars for SMES in New Zealand starting on the 23rd February in Christchurch. These are Free to SMES. AEEMA (The Australian Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers Association) are pressing the Australian Government to fund the series through Australia as well.

At the next level up our full day RoHS Training and China Day ½ day courses are running in New Zealand late February and in Australia in May. The schedule is at the end of this newsletter. Registrations are open.

An exciting new addition to the schedule is a 2 hr seminar on the EuP Directive. A set of EuP Guidance Notes is planned for March.

UK WEEE comes into force 1 July 2007, registrations needed by 15 March. Someone has a classical bent for choosing a memorable day, as this is the Ides of March, the anniversary of the assassination of Julius Caesar.

Happy reading
 Roland Sommer - Editor

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Eight Simple Steps for Converting from EU RoHS to China RoHS Compliance.

By Roland Sommer MD RoHS-International,

Published in GreenSupplyLine, RoHS-News, PB007 and others

This article is intended to compliment the China RoHS Guidance Notes available from www.rohs-international.com

Overview

China RoHS is significantly different from EU RoHS, however there is great leverage that can be gained. The 6 hazardous substances are the same, as are the Maximum Concentration values in most cases. This means that there is a good deal of leverage that be gained from the EU RoHS Certificates of compliance, but there are still traps for the unwary regarding some EU exemptions.

Whilst China RoHS does not require removal of the hazardous substances it does require:

1. Labeling of the product.
2. A table in the users guide disclosing the locations of any hazardous substances over the Chinese versions of the MCVs .
3. Calculation of the Environmentally Friendly Use Period.
4. Labeling of the packaging.

All these are different from the EU RoHS. There are 8 basic steps in converting from EU RoHS to China RoHS.

Step 1 - Analysing the product into logical sub-assemblies

The first step in complying with China RoHS is to divide up the product into logical sub-assemblies. For a complex product these will typically be individual Printed Circuit Assemblies (PCAs), mechanical chassis, display (if any) and outer enclosure. All parts need to be accounted for in a logical and easily understood manner. These groupings will form the "Components" of the

disclosure table. Grouping of parts into "miscellaneous" or "other" is not allowed.

Key Point #1- *Disclosure is at sub-assembly level not at component level.*

Step 2 - Assessing Certificates of Compliance.

Once the "Component" (sub-assembly) names have been populated in the table, the components that make up those sub-assemblies need to be analysed to see if they contain any of the hazardous substances. This may sound onerous but in fact is much simpler than the EU requirements. Once any component in the sub-assembly has been discovered with the hazardous substance in it above the Maximum Concentration Value (MCV) then the box can be crossed for that substance. It is not necessary to list all components in the sub-assembly that contain the hazardous substance. A cross in the table indicates that the sub-assembly contains one or more homogeneous materials with a concentration greater than the MCV.

Existing certificates of compliance for EU RoHS can be used to some degree for assessing the requirement for disclosure for China RoHS. There are two reasons why they will not fulfill all of the needs for China RoHS. Firstly there are some differences in the definition of Homogeneous Materials and the relative MCVs, and secondly not all CoCs list the exemptions that have been claimed for EU RoHS. There are no exemptions for China RoHS Disclosure except Deca BDE. The basic definition of Maximum Concentration Value is the same as the EU and is called category EIP-A.

However China RoHS has created 2 new categories.

- 1) Category EIP- B. The limit value for the hazardous substances when used as a coating or treatment layer is "not intentionally added". This category was created to counter the arguments on EU RoHS with the use of hexavalent chromium chromate process and the

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trivalent chromite process. This may have some implications for disclosure for certain colors of paint where the hazardous substances are intentionally used in concentrations of less than 1000ppm (100ppm for Cadmium) in the pigment.

Key Point #2 - the hexavalent chromium based chromate process requires disclosure, but the trivalent chromium based chromite process does not need to be disclosed. Any hexavalent chromium generated in the trivalent process has not been added intentionally.

- 2) Category EIP-C. Any component of mass smaller than 4mm³ can be treated as a homogeneous material. This will cover most SMT passives.

Key Point #3 - Be wary of the exemption for Lead in glass of electronic components for the EU. Many RoHS declarations for EU RoHS do not state if an exemption has been claimed. Many, if not most, SMT passive components, even if RoHS compliant, may still have concentrations of lead in excess of 1000ppm at component level due to lead oxide in the resistive layer, or capacitive substrate, conductive layer and coating layer. As a result of this we expect most PCAs to need to disclose lead.

concentrations above the MCV, the table needs to be populated.

An “x” indicates the presence of a hazardous substance and a “o” indicates the absence, or presence at concentrations below the MCVs. The table needs to be written in (or translated into) Chinese, but the “x” and “o” can be in Western fonts.

Key Point #4 - The disclosure is a binary yes/no disclosure that indicates that one homogeneous material within the subassembly according to the EIP-A, B and C definitions exceeds the MCVs. The actual concentration does not need to be disclosed.

Key Point #5 - If no hazardous substances at all are contained at concentrations above the MCV in any part of the product then the disclosure table is not needed. This would probably only apply to simple components, not to complex products.

4 - Determining the Environmentally Friendly Use Period

The debate and discussion surrounding the calculation of the EFUP is beyond the scope of this article. There is continuing debate as to whether the EFUP is based only on the components that contain the hazardous substances or whether it includes all components as indicated by the technical life method which appears to be based on the MTBF calculation. For details of the methods that can be used, please see the China RoHS Guidance Notes available from www.rohs-international.com

5 - Document the EFUP

Detail the method used, and any assumptions for determining the EFUP in the users manual. Detailing the method used is not a legal requirement but it is considered prudent considering the fluidity of the methods for calculation.

6 - Label and Date the product

3 - Populating the table

After assessing each sub-assembly for the presence of each hazardous substance in

Part Name	Toxic or Hazardous Substances and Elements					
	Lead	Mercury	Cadmium	Hexavalent Chromium	Polybrominated Biphenyls	Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers
	(Pb)	(Hg)	(Cd)	(Cr6)	(PBB)	(PBDE)
Main PCA	X	O	O	O	O	O
PSU PSA	X	O	O	O	O	O
Display PCA	X	X	X	O	O	O
Keypad	O	O	O	O	O	X
Chassis Metalwork	O	O	O	X	O	O
All fasteners	O	O	O	X	O	O
Enclosure	X	O	O	X	O	X

O: Indicates that this toxic or hazardous substance contained in all the homogeneous materials for this part, according to EIP-A, EIP-B, EIP-C is below the limit requirement in SJ/T11363-2006.

X: Indicates that this toxic or hazardous substance contained in all the homogeneous materials for this part, according to EIP-A, EIP-B, EIP-C is above the limit requirement in SJ/T11363-2006.

The cable assembly from the display to the Main PCA is included in the Display PCA declaration.

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The product needs to be labeled with either Logo 1 or Logo 2.



Logo 1

Logo 1 is used where there are no hazardous substances present at concentrations above the MCVS.



Logo 2

Logo 2 is used where there are hazardous substances present at concentrations above the MCVS. The number in the Logo is the EFUP.

The label needs to be in a location visible to the user and can be molded, painted, stuck or printed on the product.

The date of manufacture is also needed to be printed on the product. The format must be Year/Month/Day. Characters/Numerals can be western font.

7 - Label the Packaging

Packaging must be labeled according to GB-18450-2001. This is a pre-existing standard which has been grandfathered into the China RoHS Legislation. It appears to be very similar, but not identical to the EU Packaging Directive.

8 - Translate into Chinese

If not already done, the declaration table and the operating parameters for the EFUP must be translated into Chinese.

For further information please see our China RoHS Guidance Notes available from www.rohs-international.com

EFUP Discussion Paper
5/2/2007

By Roland Sommer (HND, HNC, MRGC)
 Principal Consultant RoHS-International

Note: This paper is based on information contained in the RoHS-International, China RoHS Guidance Notes, also written by this author and available from www.rohs-international.com

Abstract

There has been much confusion on the Chinese RoHS Environmentally Friendly Use Period (EFUP) also referred to as the Environmental Protection Use Period (EPUP). This has arisen from a number of sources, not least from the introduction of a new concept to industry, but also possibly from lack of technical knowledge applied during translating the EFUP drafts into English. To date there has been no technical discussion publicly available on this subject, although there has been some discussion between various consultants in the RoHS support field.

The final standard is expected in March, after the enactment date of the legislation.

The issue

The EFUP is defined in the ACPEIP (Administration on the Control of Pollution caused by Electronic Information Products)¹ in Article 3 as *“The term during which toxic and hazardous substances or elements contained in electronic information products will not leak out or mutate, thus eliminating the possibility of serious environmental pollution resulting from the use by users of electronic information products or serious harm to their persons and properties resulting from such use”*.

This definition appears to restrict the scope of determining the EFUP to components that contain toxic or hazardous substances or elements - which in turn are defined as the familiar 6 RoHS Substances (Lead, Cadmium, Mercury, Hexavalent Chromium, PBB and PBDE) plus “other toxic and hazardous substances or elements as specified by the state”. However, the methods for determining the EFUP, as described in the Draft EFUP Standard of August 2006² may indicate that the EFUP is

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based on all components, substances and elements.

Discussion

The EFUP Draft Standard of August 2006² gives five methods for calculating the EFUP, split into two categories.

Technical based EFUP

1. The Practical Method
2. Experimental Method

Theoretical based EFUP

3. Technical Life Method
4. Safe Use Period Method
5. Comparison Method

It is stated in the EFUP Draft General rule August 2006² that if the technical based EFUP is known then this should be used.

Technical Based methods

- 1) Practical Method

This appears to have been a difficult one to translate. The AeA translation² states *“Under the normal use condition of the EIP, when the cases/pieces number of hazardous and toxic substances or elements leak or mutate exceed 5 , the shortest rounding number of year is the Technical EFUP of this product”.*

We believe this actually means if there are five or more known cases where the product has leaked or mutated hazardous or toxic elements then this can be used as the basis for the EFUP. A logical extension of this, is the practical usable life of the product. When a product is disposed of, either through recycling or landfill it is reasonable to expect that the product will be subject to conditions that will start to cause any hazardous or toxic substances or elements to leak or mutate. This could be leachate from landfill or the processing of recycling plants.

Hence it is postulated that it is reasonable to interpret the Practical Method as being based on the known or predicted usable life of the product.

- 2) Experimental Method.

The AeA translation² is *“When there is not a case under the normal use condition of the EIP the hazardous and toxic substances or elements leak or mutate, the EFUP is defined according to the method and experimental technique in Chapter 6 of this standard.”* Chapter (section) 6 states *“Press two board on a wire, the hazardous and toxic substance or element will be transfer to the board within a certain time and temperature, use the testing Method Standard to test the Hazardous and toxic substance or element on the board, and then reckon the EFUP of the wire”.*

The example given in the standard as translated above is rather confusing, and we can only conclude that the either the translation is inaccurate, or that we have missed the point completely. However, following normal practice for experimental methods for determining the life of a product we postulate that this method is actually accelerated life testing. This is based on the same premise as above, that the hazardous or toxic substances or elements will leak or mutate upon disposal.

Theoretical based Methods

- 3) Technical Life Method

The AeA translation² states:

“The formula to calculate the EFUP by using Technical Life:

$$EFUP = \text{Technical Life} / (\text{average daily working life} \times 365) \quad (1)$$

$$EFUP = \text{Technical Life} / (\text{average daily working life} \times 365) \times 125\% \quad (2)$$

Formula (1) applies to EIP that can not be repaired; Formula (2) applies to EIP that can be repaired”

It is postulated that the correct translation of Technical Life is actually Mean Time Between Failure (MTBF). The multiplier of 1.25 for repairable product is a standard multiplier for this method and is hence a strong indicator of the original intent. It is suggested that the correct translation should be as follows:

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EFUP = MTBF / (average daily working life x365) for products that cannot be repaired.
 EFUP = MTBF / (average daily working life x365) x 125% for products that can be repaired.

The MTBF can be a theoretical calculation based on the MTBF of components that are identified as the most likely to fail first through a Failure Modes Effect Analysis (FMEA) or similar, or based on/confirmed through accelerated life testing. If Accelerated Life Testing is carried out then the EFUP calculation method should be classified as "Experimental" under the preferred "Technical Based Method" heading.

4) Safe Use Period Method

The AeA translation² states: *"If the product has a safe use period, should use the Safe Use Period as the EFUP"*.

Q16 of the May 2006 FAQ document gives some information on the difference between the Safe Use Period and the EFUP in the following: *"The EIP EFUP is not equivalent to the Safe Use Period as in defining the time frame it does not take into consideration such factors as electronic performance safety and electromagnetic safety."* *The EFUP might be longer or shorter than the EFUP"*

This could be construed as contradictory to the EFUP Draft standard including the option to use the Safe Use Period as the EFUP. However in legal precedence the EFUP Standard would have more weight than the FAQ document.

Due to confusion surrounding the Safe Use Period, and the number of other methods, it is unlikely that this method will be used by many companies.

5) Comparison method.

The AeA translation² states *"The new EIP without defined Technical Life and Safe Use Period should adopt the EFUP of same or similar product as its EFUP"*

The Appendix A of the Draft EFUP Standard² has some normative EFUP figures for major categories of products. These range from 50 years for Digital exchange/Switching Platform (Central Office exchange equipment) to 5 years for a cell phone (which, in the opinion of the author is probably too high).

Other parameters

For any of the above methods the Draft Standard² states that typical operating conditions must be taken into consideration when determining the EFUP. These include, but would not be limited to; temperature, altitude, humidity, on time/off time/standby time, etc. These are all typical parameters for MTBF calculation and Accelerated Life Testing algorithms.

Commercial considerations

It is stated in the March 2006 FAQs³ (question 16) that the EFUP, at present, is not subject to examination and approval of the government. This gives companies, and industry at large great freedom to consider the commercial aspects of the EFUP. If the EFUP is too low then the product looks less "green" and there is potential for future legislation/clarification to require a product to be disposed of when it's EFUP has expired. The possible intention of this is indicated in the answer to Question 16 of the March 2006 FAQs³ which states *"Products outliving its environmental friendly use period shall enter the link of disposal and be recycled, treated and recovered, or there might be leakage or permeation."*

On the other hand the same FAQ answer states *"The longer an enterprise sets its safe use period, the longer an enterprise has to take up the responsibility for that."* *This could infer that a company may be held responsible for disposal of its products if they fail or are discarded prior to the end of the EFUP.*

Conclusions

1) The author concludes that, in a practical sense the EFUP is not confined to the 6

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RoHS substances. All methods for determining the EFUP with the exception of the Safe Use Period Method appear to be based on the actual usable life of the product as whole.

2) The preferred methods are the Technical Based EFUP methods, the easiest one being the Practical Method. This method will be driven by market data on the typical useful life of the product in the market place. If the product is innovative and the practical useful life cannot be reliably determined then the MTBF confirmed with Accelerated Life Testing is the next preferred option.

3) There is potential for the EFUP number to be used by future extended producer responsibility (WEEE style) legislation.

Follow-up and further assistance

The author runs a commercial enterprise and is therefore not able to enter into discussion on this paper as it is not funded or sponsored. However this content is drawn from the 23 page document “China RoHS Guidance Notes” also written by this author and available from www.rohs-international.com. These Guidance Notes have been purchased by many companies since their release in December 2006 with 100% positive feedback. The author is willing to enter into discussion on EFUP with purchasers of these Guidance Notes as part of our customer service philosophy.

Disclaimer

This discussion paper is informative only, and contains the views of the Author as they stand at present, which he is sharing to stimulate discussion. As information changes, the views of the Author may change. This paper has no legal authority and is not legal advice. As with EU RoHS the regulations themselves should always be read and understood, as they constitute the law. The original Standards in Chinese are the only documents with legal authority.

You should refer to the Standards themselves for a full statement of the legal requirements and in the case of any doubt

take your own legal advice, The standards may be revised from time to time, so information may change.

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References

¹ This document is also translated by the AeA as “Management Methods for Controlling Pollution by Electronic Information products”. However the document is generally known as the ACPEIP.

² AeA translation of the August 29 2006 “General rule of Environmental-Friendly Use Period of Electronic Information Products”

³ MII FAQ Document March 2006, translation by AeA entitled Material of 2006 National Meeting on Electronic Information Product Pollution control

A .pdf of this paper is available from www.rohs-international.com

Q&A: NWML talks about RoHS compliance

Chris Smith, head of the RoHS team for The National Weights and Measures Laboratory (NWML), the U.K.’s RoHS enforcement authority, has been assessing a range of products since June and found most to be non-compliant.

By Drew Wilson
GreenSupplyLine

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Green SupplyLine: What trends have you found during your inspections?

Chris Smith, head of the RoHS team for the National Weights and Measures Laboratory (NWML): Companies are overlooking things. We'll get a product and test it and it will have lead-free solder and the components are good. Then we'll find a non-compliant grommet or the flex cable on the main side of the power supply non-compliant. It's been overlooked or missed. We've gone to the company and discussed it. It may be some stock they haven't tracked. It's happening more on the plastic side.

We are just doing screen testing using a XRF [x-ray fluorescence] gun and not going down the full analytical route. For example, we look for bromine. If we find it, we ask the company for the source of the bromine. We use testing as a route to dialog with a company.

Green SupplyLine: Did you expect a lot of violations after the deadline?

We had a worst case scenario. If we found an organization on July 1 non-compliant and went to talk to them and they were uncooperative we would go through a process. The earliest filing of papers with the court would have been late October, then the company would be taken to court in November. That hasn't happened. This industry is interested in complying. In terms of enforcement, we've found them to be responsible and helpful.

Green SupplyLine: Please discuss the EU-wide RoHS enforcement network.

Smith: U.K. authorities have created an informal RoHS enforcement network that meets five times a year to bring issues to the table and ideally create some basic harmonization across Europe. The network is purely voluntary. We find the richer, more industrialized nations send people; the

smaller nations with constrained budgets tend not to attend. With the network, we hope to present a consistent front to industry. That's what's most useful to industry and there are indications that [some harmonization] is beginning.

In May 2006, the network released an [enforcement guidance document](#).

Green SupplyLine: What advice can you give companies with product that is 99% compliant?

Smith: The very simple message is that it's unlawful to place non-compliant product on the market on or after July 1. If you have a product not quite compliant and are working towards it, we will open dialog with you. Be honest with us. If you're honest with us, we have avenues to explore to work in a more cooperative manner. If you evade or try to mislead us, and we're aware of the problem, doors will be closed.

Immediate action needed to meet WEEE compliance deadline

By Richard Wilson -- Electronics Weekly, 2/1/2007

The U.K. Environment Agency has reminded companies that produce electrical and electronic equipment to register in order to comply with the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) regulations. Producers of electrical and electronic equipment in England and Wales have until March 15 to join an approved WEEE compliance scheme.

"From July 1, 2007, producers of electrical and electronic equipment [EEE] will be responsible for paying for the treatment and recycling of products at the end of their life," said Liz Parkes, head of waste at the Environment Agency.

As part of the registration process, producers will need to pay a registration fee to the compliance scheme they would like to join and supply data on how much electrical

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and electronic equipment they placed on the market in 2006. They also need to say whether this equipment was for household or business use. Producers are being encouraged to join compliance schemes that will help them by collecting and recycling products on their behalf. "We have now started to approve the compliance schemes that applied to us during January. We urge producers including manufacturers, rebranders and importers, to start exploring potential compliance schemes and join one as soon as possible in order to be ready for July 1 - "WEEE Day,"" said Parkes. Each compliance scheme will then have until March 31 to register its members with the Environment Agency, which will issue each producer with a WEEE producer registration number. The producer will need to give this registration number to anyone who distributes or sells their products.

[Electronics Weekly](#) is the London-based sister publication of [Electronic News](#), part of the EDN Network.

Time for a U.S. RoHS Law? Poll Respondents Say Yes by 2-to-1

From Supply&Demand Chain Executive

Newark InOne survey indicates strong support for U.S. Congress to enact restriction of hazardous substances standards to avoid patchwork of state laws
By Editorial Staff
 Chicago — January 2, 2007 — Industrial engineers and buyers overwhelmingly favor having the U.S. Congress enact a restriction of hazardous substances (RoHS) law, thereby creating a single compliance standard for all U.S. states, according to the results of an online survey by electronics distributor Newark InOne.

Newark InOne conducted the three-month poll on its Web site homepage, concluding

the survey on December 12. Visitors to the site are primarily engineers and component buyers.

Among the respondents to the poll, 1,028 clicked "yes," indicating that they favored having the U.S. Congress enact uniform RoHS standards. In addition, 478 clicked "no," and 78 were "unsure."

The European Union's RoHS directive took effect this past July 1, restricting the amount of lead and five other substances that can be used in new electronic and electrical equipment sold to E.U. countries.

The poll was launched in mid-September following an industry warning from Newark InOne's president, Paul Tallentire, that the upcoming California RoHS-style rule that took effect January 1 sets a dangerous precedent.

"Increasing and varying state-by-state rules are already causing unnecessary complexity for electronic manufacturers and distributors who must try to track and meet them all," Tallentire said. "Are we going to wait until we have 50 state laws with 50 flavors before we enact a uniform national standard for our industry?"

Tallentire cited global competition as another imperative. "China RoHS takes effect in a few months, and its intent is to ensure that its own manufacturers can continue to export electronic goods to the EU and the rest of the world. Are the stakes any less for U.S. manufacturers?"

Newark InOne offers a dedicated RoHS Express website at www.newark.com/rohs. The site, which has been operative for almost two years, provides information to help companies transition to RoHS compliance, including: downloadable step-by-step guides to compliance and updates on U.S. and Canadian green laws. The distributor also offers various free compliance services.

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A word of thanks to our Sponsors

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Our Congratulations to the GoodByeChain Group on winning the SMT Vision 15th annual award with their MDW/1752 Software



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Upcoming Events

- February 23rd Christchurch, New Zealand. “RoHS Basics”.
SME Seminar and discussion group, 1 ½ hrs; Location TBA
- February 26th Christchurch, New Zealand. EU RoHS “The Full Picture”,
Commordore Copthorne Hotel, Memorial Ave - one day
training course.
- February 27th Christchurch, New Zealand. China RoHS and the rest of
the world. Commordore Copthorne Hotel, Memorial Ave.
China RoHS plus overview of USA RoHS, Japan, South Korea. ½
day training course.
- March 2nd Christchurch, New Zealand. EuP and Design for
Environment Principles. Commordore Copthorne Hotel,
Memorial Ave. 2hr seminar.
- March 30th Christchurch, New Zealand. “Homogeneous materials”.
SME Seminar and discussion group, 1 ½ hrs; Location TBA.
- May 14th Sydney, Australia. EU RoHS “The Full Picture”,
one day training course
- May 16th am Sydney, Australia. China RoHS and the rest of the world.
½ day training course.
- May 16th pm Sydney, Australia. EuP and Design for Environment
Principles. 2hr seminar.

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The Commercial Page

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