



## **Italeco Srl beats for Environmental Protection**

**As of 15<sup>th</sup> June 2006 is fully compliant with  
Hazardous Substances Restrictions and Lead Free**

The Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directive 2002/95/EC will apply throughout the European Union (EU) since 1st July 2006, and will ban products containing any more than traced amounts of Lead, Mercury, Cadmium, Hexavalent Chromium, Poly Bromine Bifenil (PBB) and Poly Bromine Difenil Ether (PBDE).

This is just one of three parts of EU legislation which electronics manufacturers must comply. The other ones are the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) directive, which came into effect in August 2004 and required manufacturers to take back and recycle electrical products, and the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) directive required producers to register the chemicals they use in their manufacturing processes. Although these rules apply only in the EU, their effects are being felt around the world: it has no sense for manufacturers running two production lines for products used worldwide.

However, similar rules are also being adopted around the world. China's Ministry of Information Industry bases its rules on RoHS. Japanese market does its own rules, although they are also quite in compliance with EU directives. In USA, the Environmental Protection Agency will let industry regulate itself. As a result, many US States are introducing their own regulations; California's rules, for example, are based on the EU directives.

Complying with these rules is not a small task. The RoHS rules main target is the Lead, a toxic substance that is used in soldering to fix components to circuit boards. It is an ingredient in plastic housings and it is also found in the glass of cathode-ray-tube monitors. The RoHS rules specify that components must contain less than 0.1% lead. This means that the solder used to fix components to circuit boards, which consists of a mixture of 63% tin and 37% lead, must be replaced with a mixture of tin, silver and copper whose cost rises in excess of 150%. In addition, the lead-free solder melts at a higher temperature, which it means manufacturing processes to be changed.

As of 1st June 2006 Italeco Srl is fully compliant with Hazardous Substances Restrictions and Lead Free.

Marco Torello Pichetto.