

## RoHS made easy

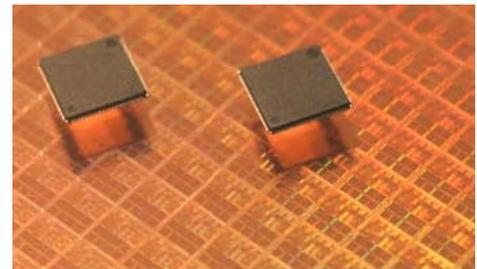
The European RoHS directive bans the use of certain materials such as lead (Pb), mercury (Hg), antimony (Sb) and cadmium (Cd), in electronics products built anywhere in the world and sold on the EU market beginning July 1, 2006. Marking inks, cardboard boxes, plastic containers, and packaging foams are not excluded in the push to eliminate toxic metal contaminants.

### Current timetable

- Summer 2005 - Final regulations for WEEE and RoHS produced
- January 2006 - Producer responsibility for financing and retailer buy-back commences
- July 1, 2006 - RoHS substance ban commences

To be RoHS compliant, materials under the European Community (EC) directive must contain a maximum concentration of up to 0.1 % by weight in homogeneous materials for lead, mercury, hexavalent chromium, PBB and PBDE and of up to 0.01% by weight in homogeneous materials for cadmium.

To facilitate gathering compliance documentation, Balazs has a "one-stop" program for RoHS tests needs. A comprehensive certificate of analysis gathers all the required hazardous materials today required by the directive. This set of tests applies to semiconductor materials, devices, and assemblies.



One component is RoHS compliant, the other is not.

Testing them avoids guesswork.

### Testing Methods

Testing methods are important, because they are the backbone that make a compliance file "audit proof".

To this day, the EC is still evaluating various test methodologies, which creates a delicate situation. Most elements of concern are listed with recommended methods, but some are not. To lower the risk of re-testing (as would require a method shift from the EC), we have chosen a conservative route. We use a set of EPA, ISO and ASTM methods that are recognized by the EC, and adopt best practices. We are also actively participating in method selection committees. As an example, being part of the Cr-VI committee allows us to use the test method that will likely be recommended in the next RoHS procedure set.

Balazs has launched a series of services to help manufacturers monitor the elemental content of their packaged devices, PWBs, and polymer packaging. Please contact your sales representative to know more about it.