

ROHS II and Mercury in UV Lamps

The ROHS I Directive (2002/95/EC) introduced restrictions on the use of lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, polybrominated biphenyl and polybrominated diphenyl ether.

For UV lamps, an indefinite exemption for mercury in discharge lamps has been created under Annex III, Category 4f.

With the introduction of ROHS II (2011/65/EU), the exemption for UV lamps was limited in time.

However, ROHS II does not define an absolute ban; exemptions still exist. For example, large stationary industrial tools (OIG) are explicitly excluded from the scope. These stationary large industrial tools include, for example, (printing) machines and the associated systems and equipment, i.e. also UV systems.

In order to create investment security, a further extension with regard to UV lamps has been applied for with the European Commission. With Directive 2022/279 supplementing ROHS II, the exemption for UV lamps under Annex III, Category 4f.IV is extended until 24.02.2027.

According to Article 4, point (4) f) of ROHS, the supply of spare parts for equipment placed on the market before 24.02.2027 is ensured.

To our knowledge, the actual consumption of mercury in the area of UV curing and disinfection is approx. 200 kg/year in Europe. This corresponds to approx. 0.03% of consumption each year within the EU.

As mercury can be recycled up to 99.8% in a certified process, the actual consumption is much lower. One condition here is that the old lamps are disposed of correctly. For this reason, UV lamps display the following symbol.



Spent UV lamps can be packed in airtight containers and returned to IST METZ GmbH & Co. KG for disposal.

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ROHS_EN_Mitteilung3

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