



Create a more human library

FACT SHEET

Understanding what WEEE and RoHS are and their importance to the environment

(WEEE) Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment

This European WEEE directive (2002/96/EC) primarily focuses on reducing the amount of electrical and electronic equipment that enters landfills at the end of its useful life by encouraging reuse, recycling and separate collection. Increased recycling of electrical and electronic equipment will limit the total quantity of waste going to final disposal. Producers will be responsible for taking back and recycling electrical and electronic equipment. This will provide incentives to design electrical and electronic equipment in a more environmentally efficient way. Consumers will be able to return their equipment free of charge.



What does this mean for libraries in the US?

Like Europe, many states (for example, Maine, Maryland, California, Washington) have passed or have pending legislation whereby throwing computers and monitors in the trash is illegal. The “crossed-out wheeled bin” symbol at left, required in the EU under WEEE but being used globally, indicates the product should not be disposed of in the ordinary trash. These products are safe under normal use while the product is being used, but can later pose risk at the end-of-life to the local environment if the device is not disposed of properly.

3M has developed plans in certain states to facilitate libraries’ recycling of monitors instead of simply throwing them away. This is consistent with 3M’s commitment to a sustainable environment.

Your library can become more involved in understanding local, state and federal laws regarding the issue of disposal, recycling, etc. Each state will have different requirements, and you’ll need to understand what your state’s requirements are for the disposal of computer monitors you purchase so you can comply with them. You can also then inform your patrons of ways to locate local laws and recycling opportunities regarding household disposal of electronic products. For more recycling information visit our website at www.3M.com/us/library or www.eiae.org.



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About RoHS

“Getting the Lead Out”

Whereas the WEEE directive addresses the disposal of this equipment, the RoHS directive addresses the restriction of potentially hazardous components.

As of July 1, 2006 all manufacturers of certain electrical / electronic products were mandated to remove or restrict lead and five other substances from products. This became known as the European (EU) Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directive, **2002/95/EC**, that restricts the use of lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, PBB (polybrominated biphenyls), and PBDE (polybrominated diphenyl ethers) in electrical and electronic products sold into Europe as of July, 2006.

Since that time, one U.S. state, California, has adopted a RoHS-type law that restricts certain products such as monitors containing these substances over specific levels from being sold into that state. With the redesign and/or substitution of over 6,000 components, our products for Libraries meet the EU RoHS directive as well as California law which further demonstrates 3M's commitment to sustainability.

3M's customers worldwide increasingly have been requesting information on the status of 3M products with respect to the European Union's Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directive. You can find out more information on our Library Systems website or visiting 3M.com

3M Library System can provide RoHS certification for products meeting the RoHS directive.¹

For more information about the RoHS directive, visit our website www.3M.com/us/library.

¹RoHS compliant means that the product or part does not contain any of the substances in excess of the following maximum concentration values in any homogeneous material, unless the substance is in an application that is exempt under RoHS, as amended:(a) 0.1% (by weight) for lead, mercury, hexavalent chromium, polybrominated biphenyls or polybrominated diphenyl ethers; or (b) 0.01% (by weight) for cadmium. This information represents 3M's knowledge and belief, which may be based on information provided by third party suppliers to 3M.