

## **Environmental Corporate Position on RoHS and WEEE Directives**

### **F5 Networks Environmental Policy**

F5 Networks Environmental Policy is the foundation of all of our waste reduction initiatives. We strive to be environmentally responsible by developing safe, efficient, and environmentally conscious products, manufacturing processes, and corporate energy use and recycling goals. F5 Networks has initiated this Environmental Policy to protect the environment and to conduct its operations in the electronics manufacturing services (EMS) industry using sound management practices. One of the major objectives of this policy is to: “comply with, or exceed all applicable and anticipated environmental Legislation and Regulations”.

In January 2003, the European Union adopted the Directive on the Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment [Directive 2002/95/EC] (the “RoHS Directive”) and the Directive on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment [Directive 2002/96/EC] (the “WEEE Directive”). The objective of these Directives is the protection of human health, and the environmentally sound recovery and disposal of WEEE. There is also a focus on enforcing the proper risk assessment in design cycles, and on improving the environmental performance and life cycle management of the electronics industry as a whole. The main provisions of the WEEE Directive state that from August 13, 2005, producers are required to finance the collection, treatment, recycling and recovery of all WEEE. Pursuant to the RoHS Directive, as of July 1, 2006, EEE (Electrical and Electronic Equipment) may no longer be sold in the EU (European Union) if it contains lead, cadmium, mercury, hexavalent chromium, polybrominated biphenyls and polybrominated diphenyl ether, subject to certain limited exemptions.

### **F5 Network’s Commitment**

Anticipating the adoption of the WEEE and RoHS Directives within the EU, F5 Networks is currently working on projects that comply with these Directives. In early 2004, a team was formed to ensure that F5 Networks complies with the WEEE and RoHS Directives in advance of the legislation. Based on our dialogue with suppliers and customers, we have a clear understanding of the immense impact of RoHS and WEEE on our customers’ business model and technical processes. Our intent is to have a responsive, consistent approach to compliance across all F5 Networks products.

As such, F5 is addressing these commitments with plans to offer, produce, ship, and recycle environmentally conscious products. F5 plans to offer products that comply with the RoHS Directive for shipment to the European Union prior to July 1, 2006, with additional availability to the rest of the world (ROW) prior to 12/31/2006.

### **Supply Chain Management**

A current priority is to execute a comprehensive Supplier Environmental Compliance survey and publish Supply Chain Environmental Compliance Requirements – an effort that will enable us to understand our suppliers’ roadmaps for implementing the EU and other national environmental directives (RoHS, WEEE, ELV, EuP). These documents will serve as the basis for informing our supply base and educating our manufacturing sites on F5 Network’s environmental compliance requirements. This policy will include the requirement to have a defined methodology to distinguish a RoHS compliant part versus a non-compliant part, through the use of either a new part number, and/or part marking/labeling, and/or date/lot code control, among others.

### **Business Processes**

F5 Networks is currently evaluating the need for a revised global inventory control strategy to ensure complete adherence to environmental legislation and tracking of RoHS compliant and non-compliant inventory. In support of this revised inventory control strategy, discussions concerning enhancements to F5 Network’s IT systems (ERP, Product Data Management etc.) and processes (e.g. new part numbering schemes, receiving inspection, material information tracking etc.) are ongoing. F5 Networks is currently evaluating the changes required to our sourcing procedures for effective management of different part

classifications; including order segregation, validation of supplier compliance to environmental requirements, as well as design and bill-of-material review processes.

### **Stakeholder Expectations**

As per the details identified in this document, F5 Networks has taken the appropriate steps to ensure our suppliers are prepared to comply with RoHS and WEEE legislation and, therefore, mitigate significant field failures. Although F5 Networks stands behind its workmanship, this is a significant change for components and the industry as a whole. F5 Networks will therefore need its suppliers and customers to engage in active involvement and shared responsibility in order to achieve the required objectives, as the industry moves towards compliance. As the nature and content of these Directives continues to evolve, we are committed to continually keep you informed of the actions F5 Networks is taking to address them. We encourage our customers and suppliers to share their perspectives and continue a dialogue with us as well.

### **Materials Declaration**

F5 Networks is committed to providing a service to our customers to help them comply with the WEEE directive on reporting. The directive requires that information on the reuse, treatment and location of dangerous substances must be disclosed to reuse, treatment and recycling centers. In addition to WEEE reporting requirements, many customers are requesting materials declaration reports that exceed the requirements of WEEE. In some cases, these requests require the disclosure of more than 200 unique substances. F5 Networks is committed to meeting customer requirements for materials declaration, although we strongly support industry standardization in this area to minimize effort in generating unique reports for each customer. The Electronics Industry Alliance (EIA), European Industry Association (EICTA) and the Japan Green Procurement Survey Standardization Initiative (JGPSSI) have developed a Joint Industry Guide for Material Composition Declaration that was published in September 2003. This guide is gaining support throughout the electronics industry, and in lieu of any customer specific reporting requests, F5 Networks will recommend the use of this Joint Industry Guide to define materials declaration requirements.

### **RoHS Implementation Strategy**

The rate of conversion of F5 Networks RoHS compliant assembly processes will be customer driven. As an industry leader in network appliance products, we have assessed and documented the requirements necessary to make the conversion. It is our intention to have RoHS compliant assembly processes in production by July 2006.

F5 produces RoHS compliant products that fall under one or more technical exemptions for lead (Pb) and cadmium listed in the EU Directive 2002/95/EC Annex. These exemptions include:

1. Lead in solders for servers, storage and storage array systems, network infrastructure equipment for switching, signaling, transmission as well as network management for telecommunications.
2. Lead in high melting temperature type solders (i.e. tin-lead solder alloys containing more than 85% lead).
3. Lead in solders to complete a viable electrical connection between semiconductor die and carrier within integrated circuit flip chip packages.
4. Lead in solder consisting of more than two elements for the connection between the pins and the package of microprocessors with a lead content of more than 80% and less than 85% by weight.
5. Lead as an alloying element in steel containing up to 0.35% lead by weight, aluminum containing up to 0.4% lead by weight and as a copper alloy containing up to 4% lead by weight (i.e. screws).
6. Lead used in compliant pin connector systems (i.e. connectors).
7. Lead and cadmium in optical and filter glass.
8. Lead in electronic ceramic parts (e.g. piezoelectronic devices).