



RoHS FAQs

What is RoHS?

RoHS stands for "Reduction of Hazardous Substances" and is a European Union directive. Basically the EU wants to limit hazardous materials from entering the environment. The EU started in 2003 with WEEE (waste electrical and electronic equipment) which aimed to recycle equipment and keep it from landfills, and the RoHS legislation takes it a step further by reducing the harmful materials from all electronics entering the EU.

Where can I find F5's official Environmental statement?

As of June 12, you can find the official "F5 Environmental Corporate Position on RoHS and WEEE Directives" under the "Environmental" section on the corporate website.

When does the RoHS directive become law

The directive will be enacted in the EU on July 1, 2006. This means that all new platforms shipped to arrive after the 1st of July must be RoHS compliant.

Is RoHS just for the European Union?

Yes, the RoHS Directive applies strictly to countries who are members of the European Union. Every EU state (and the UK) have the same rules regarding RoHS.

Which F5 products are RoHS Compliant?

F5 uses common part number designators "-RS", "-R" and "ARX" to easily identify which products have been manufactured in strict accordance to the RoHS directive.

Is there an easy way to tell if the unit I have is RoHS compliant?

Yes. On the back of every RoHS compliant unit you will find a compliancy label. In addition, all RoHS compliant units have a Certificate of Compliance (COC) letter sent with the unit.



Where can I find F5's official statement for RoHS Compiancy?

You can find the official "F5 ROHS Compliance Statement" under the "Guidelines & Policies" section on the corporate website.



What are the hazardous substances restricted by RoHS?

The restricted substances and maximum levels are:

- Lead (Pb) 0.1% (1000 PPM)
- Mercury (Hg) 0.1% (1000 PPM)
- Cadmium (Cd) 0.01% (100 PPM)
- Hexavalent chromium (Cr+6) 0.1% (1000 PPM)
- PPB 0.1% (1000 PPM)
- PBDE 0.1% (1000 PPM)

What is the difference between RoHS Compliant and lead-free?

Lead-free is interpreted as having no lead substance.

RoHS compliant parts may have lead in amounts not to exceed 0.1% wt of homogeneous substance. In addition, there are several exemptions that are applicable to our equipment.

What exemptions will F5 be claiming with regard to RoHS?

The RoHS directive allows F5 to claim specific exemptions with regard to the manufacture of our products. As such, F5 is claiming the following exemptions:

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).

How will the RMA of non-RoHS units work before July 1, 2006?

Products received in country prior to July 1st will be grandfathered in and do not have to be RoHS compliant.

How will the RMA of non-RoHS units work after July 1, 2006?

After July 1st, non-RoHS units will be RMA'd with other non-RoHS units until inventory to fulfill non-RoHS RMAs are no longer available.