

The WEEE & RoHS Directives do not apply to UPS, but the manufacturers remain committed to improving the environment

The European Commission and ORGALIME confirm that these new regulations do not apply to UPS. However, the protection of the environment remains a priority for the UPS manufacturers*

April 2006 – The European Commission has published a guide in May 2005 to interpret the WEEE and RoHS directives (FAQ document). This guide clarifies these innovative but complex regulations for the new obligations regarding the disposal of electric and electronic equipment, as well as the prohibition of hazardous substances.

As expected by the professionals in the sector, the FAQ document, the only official European Commission document since the adoption of the WEEE and RoHS directives, confirmed that the scope of application of the directives does not include UPS. In this case, it states that « *to enter into the scope of application of the Directives, the equipment must fall in one of the ten categories in Annex 1A* ». As a consequence, this includes any product listed in Annex 1B (FAQ, page 6 paragraph 3 and page 7 paragraph 4). **But Annexes 1A and 1B of the Directives do not mention UPS anywhere, nor any other type of energy conversion equipment.**

The FAQ document also specifies that frequency converters are explicitly excluded from the Directive (FAQ, page 7 paragraph 5). UPS, due to their similarity in technology, are often used as converters.

This information is now confirmed by ORGALIME in their interpretation guide for the WEEE and RoHS directives which was published in February 2006. The guide explicitly excludes UPS from the scope of application of the Directives, rigorously applying the same analysis as the Commission

The protection of the environment, a priority for UPS manufacturers !

Although not covered by the WEEE and RoHS Directives, the UPS manufacturers are maintaining their voluntary and active commitment to environmental protection, demonstrating concrete and significant results over the past several years

Thus, across the numerous services offered to their customers, they ensure the traceability and the disposal of the vast majority of UPS installed in the industrial, service and infrastructure sectors. In addition, through application of the Batteries and Accumulators Directive, the same manufacturers already practice product marking, user guides, declaration of quantity of products on the market and recycling of batteries at the end of their life. Lastly, CEMEP UPS** is currently preparing a Voluntary Agreement with the European Commission in order to continue improving the efficiency of UPS sold on the European market.

In the spirit of their voluntary environmental policy and conscious that the small « plug and play » products (pluggable UPS with a power rating below 1 kVA) could be associated with domestic computer applications, UPS manufacturers confirm that they are already able to conform to potential national requirements concerning the disposal of these products, as is already the case in Belgium***.

Further Information :

* On 26 February 2006, ORGALIME published a practical guide to understanding the WEEE and RoHS Directives and their scope of application, aimed at the markets and the administrations. This guide, prepared by numerous European experts, is the precise reflection of the official texts (Directives and FAQ), the position expressed by CEMEP UPS and the professional practices seen on the European market. ORGALIME is comprised of 34 professional federations, representing 130,000 companies in the mechanical, electric, electronic and metallurgical sectors across 23 European countries. The ORGALIME guide to the WEEE and RoHS Directives can be downloaded free of charge from : <http://publications.orgalime.org>.

** CEMEP UPS, the European Committee of UPS Manufacturers, comprises 12 professional organisations from 10 countries. In 2005, the UPS manufacturers in CEMEP had a turnover of 1171 M€ in Europe in the supply of secured energy solutions to military, medical, banking, administration, telecoms and information infrastructures.

*** Although the WEEE Directive does not apply to UPS, Belgium has taken advantage of the flexibility given to the Member States by Article 175 of the Treaty of the European Union to apply the same regulatory constraints to small pluggable UPS (with a power rating less than 1kVA) as those of small computer equipment. For each UPS of this type sold on the Belgian market, the manufacturers currently pay 0,5 € to RECUPEL (www.recupel.be)

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