

Dear Ms. Madalina Caprusu,

DG. Environment

Brussels, 18th July 2008

cc. Mr. Michail Papadoyannakis
DG.Environment
Ms. Stephanie Zangle
Oko Institut e.V.

Proposal on the review of the existing exemptions for Categories 8 & 9

JBCE member companies producing equipment covered by the WEEE categories 8 & 9 fully support the conclusions and recommendations of the relevant ERA report¹. The study behind the report was carried out on the basis of existing exemptions. When considering the inclusion of categories 8 & 9 into the RoHS Directive we feel that particularly tables 44 and 71 in the ERA report should be taken into account. Indeed, JBCE is of the opinion that existing RoHS exemptions should be reviewed from a specific categories 8 & 9 perspective, when these two categories will be included in the RoHS Directive.

The equipment covered by categories 8&9 has a long product life and is subject to high-level requirements concerning reliability, accuracy, and safety. Therefore, existing exemptions and alternative technologies should be considered and evaluated differently than is the case regarding the other WEEE Annex categories in order to avoid negative consequences for human health and the environment.

JBCE has already proposed the maintenance of specific existing exemptions, e.g. no. 13. It is important to note, however, that categories 8 & 9 companies generally find it difficult to make a full analysis of the impact of all existing exemptions simply because categories 8 & 9 have not been covered by the Directive to date.

Please contact us if you have any questions or would like to receive any further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Lars Bruckner'.

Lars Bruckner
Chairman of Environment Committee
Japan Business Council in Europe

¹ "Review of Directive 2002/95/EC for the possible inclusion in the scope of this Directive, equipment which falls under categories 8 and 9 set out in Annex IA to Directive 2002/96/EC (WEEE)"
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/wEEE/pdf/era_study_final_report.pdf