

02/12/2003 Nikkei Sangyo Shinbun

Toxic substances directive by EU
Hitachi ban by Spring 2005.
Disclosure of information by suppliers.

Hitachi announced that they will ban the use of lead, mercury etc. for electric and electronics equipments by end of March 2005.

Environmental regulations (RoHS directives), which forbids the use of specific toxic substances for electric and electronics equipments will be enforced by European Union (EU) in July 2006. Leaded solder will also be banned by end of March 2005.

For about 70 products produced by Hitachi Group of 968 companies, 6 substances including lead, mercury, cadmium, hexed chrome and 2 kinds of bromine fire retardant, specified by RoHS directive are banned.

About all Hitachi's components, research on the contents of specific toxic substances will be completed by end of this year with plans to change to a substitute material. Suppliers are requested to disclose all information related to it.

The Tin-Silver-Copper solder with Indium 7% will be used as replacement from December 2004 onwards. All components will be changed to lead-free solder by end of March 2004 in Japan and by end of March 2005 in all the factories worldwide.

For such environment plans, it may cause the cost of development and investment of new equipments to go up. This leads to the increase of the production cost. Hitachi wants to counter such increases of cost with the improvement in design changes and manufacturing methods etc.