

# Consultation Questionnaire Exemption 13a of RoHS Annex III

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Current wording of the exemption:

*Lead in white glasses used for optical applications*

*Expires on:*

*— 21 July 2023 for category 8 in vitro diagnostic medical devices;*

*— 21 July 2024 for category 9 industrial monitoring and control instruments and for category 11;*

*— 21 July 2021 for all other categories and subcategories*

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## 1. Acronyms and Definitions

Cd	Cadmium
Pb	Lead
LCoS	Liquid Crystal on Silicon

## 2. Background and Summary of the Exemption Request

Bio Innovation Service, UNITAR and Fraunhofer IZM have been appointed<sup>1</sup> by the European Commission through for the evaluation of applications for the review of requests for new exemptions and the renewal of exemptions currently listed in Annexes III and IV of the RoHS Directive 2011/65/EU.

Spectaris e.V. submitted a request<sup>2</sup> for the renewal of the above-mentioned exemption. The request has been subject to a first completeness and plausibility check. The applicant has been re-requested to answer additional questions and to provide additional information, available on the request webpage of the stakeholder consultation.<sup>3</sup>

According to the applicant: “This exemption renewal request is for the use of lead in optical glass that is used in electrical and electronic equipment. Optical glass containing lead is used in a very wide variety of applications and in many types of equipment. Lead based glass types are used because they have unique combinations of properties and characteristics that cannot be achieved by lead-free optical glass or by different designs. As a result, the technical requirements of the glass and the equipment in which it is used can only be achieved with lead-based optical glass.”

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<sup>1</sup> It is implemented through the specific contract 070201/2020/832829/ENV.B.3 under the Framework contract ENV.B.3/FRA/2019/0017

<sup>2</sup> Exemption request available at [http://www.rohs.biois.eu/RoHS\\_exemption\\_application\\_SPECTARIS\\_13a.pdf](http://www.rohs.biois.eu/RoHS_exemption_application_SPECTARIS_13a.pdf) Additional information provided by Spectaris e.V. during their application is available at: [RoHS Annex III exemption evaluation - Stakeholder consultation \(biois.eu\)](http://www.rohs.biois.eu/RoHS_Annex_III_exemption_evaluation_-_Stakeholder_consultation_(biois.eu))

<sup>3</sup> Clarification questionnaire available at [http://www.rohs.biois.eu/Ex-13a-Annex-III\\_UP\\_Clarification\\_%20Answers.pdf](http://www.rohs.biois.eu/Ex-13a-Annex-III_UP_Clarification_%20Answers.pdf)



The stakeholder consultation is part of the review process for the request at hand. The objective of this consultation and the review process is to collect and to evaluate information and evidence according to the criteria listed in Art. 5(1)(a) of Directive 2011/65/EU.<sup>4</sup>

To contribute to this stakeholder consultation, please answer the below questions until the 27<sup>th</sup> of May 2021.

### 3. Questions

1. Spectaris e.V. requested the renewal<sup>2</sup> of the above exemption for the maximum validity periods (5 and 7 years respectively) for all EEE of cat. 1-11 with the same scope and wording.

a. Please let us know whether you support or disagree with the wording, scope and re-quested duration of the exemption. To support your views, please provide detailed technical argumentation / evidence in line with the criteria<sup>4</sup> in Art. 5(1)(a).

Christie, being a downstream user of optical glass lenses, supports Spectaris e.V. request on the wording, scope and duration of the exemption 13a. As explained in the exemption request form “digital projectors and rear projection televisions (category 4). Lead glass lenses and prisms are used because these are the only types of glass that have high % transmission at shorter wavelengths and do not cause distortion of the image when the glass temperature increases by heating from the intense light source. This is because the refractive index is less affected by temperature changes than lead-free glass. Heating the glass also affects focusing of the image causing distortion but lead glass lenses can compensate for temperature changes to avoid distortion”.

b. If applicable, please suggest an alternative wording and duration and explain your proposal.

N/A

2. Please provide information concerning possible substitutes or elimination possibilities at present or in the future so that the requested exemption could be restricted or revoked.

a. Please explain substitution and elimination possibilities and for which part of the applications in the scope of the requested exemption they are relevant.

b. Please provide information as to research to find alternatives that do not rely on the exemption under review (substitution or elimination), and which may cover part or all of the applications in the scope of the exemption request.

c. Please provide a roadmap of such on-going substitution/elimination and research (phases that are to be carried out), detailing the current status as well as the estimated time needed for further stages.

3. Do you know of other manufacturers producing devices of comparable features and performance like the ones in the scope of this exemption request that do not depend on RoHS-restricted substances, or use smaller amounts of these substances compared to the applications in the scope of this exemption?

4. As part of the evaluation, socio-economic impacts shall also be compiled and evaluated. For this purpose, if you have information on socioeconomic aspects, please provide details in respect of the following:

a. What are the volumes of EEE in the scope of the requested exemptions which are placed on the market per year?

b. What are the volumes of additional waste to be generated should the requested exemption not be renewed or not be renewed for the requested duration?

<sup>4</sup> Directive 2011/65/EU (RoHS) available at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32011L0065:EN:NOT>

- c. What are estimated impacts on employment in total, in the EU and outside the EU, should the requested exemption not be renewed or be renewed for less than the re-requested time period? Please detail the main sectors in which possible impacts are expected – manufacturers of equipment in the scope of the exemption, suppliers, re-tail, users of MRI devices, etc.
  - d. Please estimate additional costs associated should the requested exemption not be renewed, and how this is divided between various sectors (e.g. private, public, industry: manufacturers, suppliers, retailers).
5. Any additional information which you would like to provide?

**Please note that answers to these questions can be published in the stakeholder consultation, which is part of the evaluation of this request. If your answers contain confidential information, please provide a version that can be made public along with a confidential version, in which proprietary information is clearly marked.**

**Please do not forget to provide your contact details (Name, Organisation, e-mail and phone number) so that the project team can contact you in case there are questions concerning your contribution.**