

## **Legislation Information Worldwide**

### **European Union**

In 2002, the European Parliament approved two directives related to the reduction of electrical and electronic waste, named the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and Restriction of the use of certain Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directives. The WEEE Directive aims to regulate the reuse, recycling and recovery of waste electrical and electronic equipment; the ultimate goal is to prevent the disposal of this waste. In the RoHS Directive, the use of lead, cadmium, mercury, hexavalent chromium, PBB and PBDE in most electrical and electronic equipment will be banned or severely restricted. The RoHS Directive aims to eliminate the pre-mentioned substances from most electronic equipment starting 1 July 2006. You can get more information from the official homepage of European Union.

### **China**

The Ministry of Industry Information (MII) in China published a draft regulation that closely resembles the RoHS Directive. To date it has not been approved, but it is anticipated that it will become law in the near future.

### **Japan**

In Japan, there is no legislation specifically banning the use of lead in electronics. However, there are two laws which when combined indicate that such a ban may be forthcoming. The first law, the Japanese Home Electronics Recycling Law, calls for OEMs to be prepared to collect and recycle four major products (TVs, refrigerators, washing machines and air conditioning units) by April 2001. The second law forbids these OEMs from putting any kind of waste leaching toxic elements into the environment.

### **United States of America**

Laws have been approved or proposed that aim to either promote recycling and/or limit the use of hazardous substances in several states. A presentation given at the NEMI RoHS/Pb-Free Summit in October 2004 provides a comprehensive overview of the current legislative situation.