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# The International Impacts of Environmental Requirements of the European Union on the Electrical and Electronic Equipment Sector

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## Abstract

European Union, concerned about the rise of electrical and electronic equipment waste containing hazardous substances, published two requirements in 2003: directives on waste management (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment-WEEE) and the use of hazardous substances (Restriction of the Use of certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment-RoHS). These requirements have caused impact over main countries, in and out European Union, stimulating technological innovation, especially involving replacement of hazardous substances. Developed countries are more ready and have reacted in a more innovative way than the Asian new industrialized countries.

**Keywords:** *RoHS, WEE, environmental policy, innovation*

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