

# RoHS, WEEE and the Cables of Draka Comteq

# White Paper

## Information for dealers and users

This documentation explains to you why Draka Comteq cables are not directly affected by both directives RoHS and WEEE of the European Council and why the cables can be used without hesitation.



**Draka**

**Draka Comteq | Cable Solutions**

We build networks. How can we help you build yours?

## Prevention and Recycling

Two directives and a lot of uncertainty in the industry: To which producers and which products do the directives apply?

What consequences do they have for the trade and for users? To get a clear answer to these questions, it is helpful to first of all read the regulations very carefully.

RoHS stands for "Restriction of the use of certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment" which is directive 2002/95/EC. WEEE on the other hand stands for "Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment", directive 2002/96/EC. Main purpose of these directives is to prevent waste from electrical

and electronic equipment and to promote re-use, recycling and other forms of recovery to reduce both the volume of waste for disposal and the inclusion in waste of harmful substances from waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE).

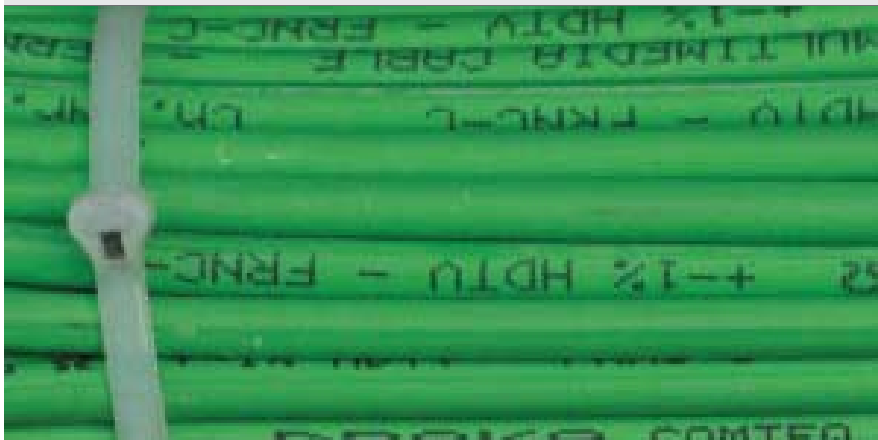
## Restricted Substances

The directives regulate what obligations are assigned to the producers of electrical and electronic equipment. Above all they control the product design, disposal of the waste equipment and organisational duties. Highly significant are the substance limits given by RoHS directive: The placing on the market of new electrical and

electronic equipment containing more than 0.1 percent weight of lead, mercury, hexavalent chromium, polybrominated biphenyls (PBBs) or polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) per homogeneous substance or more than 0.01 percent weight of cadmium per homogeneous substance is prohibited. There are of course exceptions for particular applications, listed in the directives' annexes.

## Are cables electrical equipment?

For Draka Comteq and their customers the fundamental question here is: Are cables of Draka Comteq electrical and electronic equipment covered by the RoHS and WEEE?



## Conclusion

All cable solutions from Draka Comteq are not "equipment" covered by the RoHS or WEEE. Thus they may be marketed and used without hesitation.

If Draka cables are permanently installed as components in equipment which falls under the WEEE or RoHS, it is recommended to use cable solutions from recent production as these anyway fulfill the restrictions on the use of certain hazardous substances as stated in the RoHS directive.

## Draka Comteq cables are not "equipment"

In article 2 "Scope" and article 3 "Definitions", the WEEE describes electrical and electronic equipment in all details to clearly define what is covered by the directive and what is not.

### Scope and Definitions

Furthermore, Annex IA and IB list ten categories of equipment that definitely falls under the directives. Applying the above criteria to the cables placed on the market by Draka Comteq, leads to the conclusion that they are not "equipment" within the meaning of the directives RoHS and WEEE.

Dr. Rhein. A corresponding certificate confirms the result (see photo on opposite page). In concrete terms this means: the "Basynet" cabling system and the cables of Draka Comteq can be installed in buildings or used as patch lines as well as cables in outside broadcast vans without hesitation.

categorically does not apply to the cables of Draka Comteq, Draka nevertheless feels an obligation to protect the environment. For this reason the manufacturing process has been changed in the meantime with the result that the cables produced by Draka Comteq comply with the limits stated in the RoHS directive.

### Confirmed by experts

Same conclusion was reached by lawyer Thorsten Jung from the law firm Hencinski, Jung, Thome & Partner and by Diplomingenieur Thomas Meyer, publicly appointed and sworn expert for the disposal of electrical appliances, environmental office

## Ecologically on the safe side with Draka

### Committed to the environment

The RoHS directive was released by the European Parliament and Council for better protection of the environment. Although it

Not only does the environment benefit from this, but also producers of electrical and electronic equipment who install the cables as fixed components in their products. Because as far as their equipment falls under the directives, the fix integrated cables have to meet the requirements of the RoHS.

## Certificate about the classification of products according to ElektroG

This is to certify that

with reference to criteria of the ElektroG<sup>1</sup> and BMU-guidelines<sup>2</sup> it has been founded, that **cables**, produced by enterprise



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and placed on the market cannot be categorized as independent "devices" in scope of the ElektroG and thus they are not touched by the Directives WEEE and RoHS.

However, this classification does not exclude that **cables**, produced by enterprise Draka Comteq Germany GmbH & Co. KG are used as components/parts in line with of the ElektroG, and therefore have to be RoHS-conform as a part of the producer's product requirement.

Basing on BMU-guidelines the following products are part of the given exceptions:

- Cables, when installed in buildings and used as part of building service engineering (BMU Nr. 2.5.3)
- Power supply lines, as far as specially used in vehicles (BMU Nr. 2.5.1)
- Patch cables, as far as they do not have a direct function and can therefore not be seen as independent "devices" (BMU Nr. 3.1)
- "Basynet", as far as they do not have a direct function and can therefore not be seen as independent "devices" (BMU Nr. 3.1)

The classification according to the exceptions has been made by a consulting workshop at March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006 and was founded in summarisation by report [tms-020/06-BE-29032006](#).

Sarstedt, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006

  
Dipl.-Ing. Thomas Meyer  
Expert in behalf of  
technical authority



<sup>1</sup> „Bundesgesetzblatt Jahrgang 2005“ part I Nr. 17 „Act Governing the Sale, Return and Environmentally Sound Disposal of Electrical and Electronic Equipment“ (short ElektroG), published on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005, Bonn

<sup>2</sup> „Bundesumweltministerium“, BMU-guidelines according to scope of the ElektroG (BMU-Auslegungsinweise), published on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2005