

# Singapore conference addresses RoHS issues and features IECQ HSPM

Regulations that are emerging on hazardous substances mean that, if they want to stay competitive, manufacturers in the electrical and electronic industry sector have to find ways to comply. Since the [European Union](#) introduced its [RoHS Directives](#) on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic (EE) equipment in 2006, RoHS compliance has gone from being a technological challenge to becoming a serious business concern. It is therefore essential to keep abreast of regulatory developments.



Speakers at the conference on "RoHS Compliance – Business Potential and Market Access Opportunities" that was held in Singapore. Chris Agius is pictured here (2nd from right).

### RoHS in Singapore

Electrical and electronic equipment is one of Singapore's major exports. RoHS regulations have a significant impact on manufacturers and trade involving these products. Moreover, following the EU, many countries have introduced RoHS-like regulations. The different requirements of each country pose challenges to the industry and may become barriers to trade. Singapore manufacturers who are part of the EE supply chain often face pressure from their customers to produce proof or declaration of compliance to RoHS. They face the risk of losing business deals if they are not able to do so .

To tackle these issues, SPRING Singapore – [SPRING](#) is the IEC National Committee and the IECQ Member Body for Singapore – and the Singapore Manufacturers' Federation ([SMA](#)) organized a conference and an exhibition on "RoHS Compliance – Business Potential and Market Access Opportunities" on 23 July 2008 in Singapore. A pre-conference workshop "Managing the RoHS Compliant Supply Chain" took place on 22 July.

The objective of the conference was to provide participants with insights on the supply chain dynamics with respect to RoHS so that they can better understand the needs of customers and prepare themselves for compliance in a manner that extends beyond just a mere paper trial. In addition, there have been several updates on RoHS regulations worldwide since SPRING's last RoHS conference in 2007, and this was an opportunity to bring industry's attention to these latest developments.

Both the pre-conference workshop and the conference were attended by about 100 participants.

### The pre-conference workshop

While the conference discussed business-related topics including operations and supply chain management, the pre-conference workshop further enhanced the theme of the conference by addressing these issues in greater depth and detail. Dr Kun Mo Lee was the speaker at the pre-conference workshop. Dr Lee is a renowned expert on Ecodesign, product LCA (Life Cycle Assessment), and the European Union's environmental regulations including the Integrated Product Policy (IPP). He is currently authoring a RoHS Manual for SMEs (small and medium enterprises) for the [Asian Productivity Organization](#).

## The conference

The keynote address, "Worldwide Business Challenges and Opportunities in RoHS Compliance" was delivered by Parker Brugge, Vice-President of Environmental Affairs and Corporate Sustainability, [Consumer Electronics Association](#), USA.

One of the speakers at the conference was [IECQ](#) Executive Secretary Chris Agius who spoke about managing hazardous substances and the IECQ QC 080000 HSPM method and also facilitated one of the 2 Open Forums of the Conference.

Agius first gave an overview of the IEC, outlining its mission and areas of activities, its structure and its membership, its technical committees and its products, as well as its conformity assessment systems, touching briefly on [IECEE](#) and [IECEX](#), and then concentrating on IECQ, the IEC Quality Assessment System for Electronic Components. After explaining the system, Agius focused on the dedicated IECQ Programme that addresses requirements concerning the control of Hazardous Substances, including RoHS, the IECQ Hazardous Substance Process Management Scheme (HSPM).

Agius spent time detailing the [IECQ HSPM programme](#), explaining why the scheme is the most comprehensive programme in the management of hazardous substances with the [IECQ QC 080000 Specification](#), complementing and adding to ISO 9001 and ISO 14001. He gave some examples of companies using and promoting IECQ HSPM on their websites, and showed the impressive growth of IECQ HSPM certificates over the past three years (see [e-tech May 2008](#)).

To conclude, Agius told the audience that IECQ HSPM was the programme that provided a single international system for the management of hazardous substances, going beyond RoHS to also cover customer specifications and requirements, in confirming suppliers' claims and facilitating international trade.

Other presentations dealt with RoHS developments in the EU and the USA, in China and the Asia Pacific region, as well as with specific developments for the electrical and electronic industry, including the medical device sector. This included a practical presentation from Mr Wynn Bowman from the [Electronic Components Certification Board](#), US highlighting the need for "Due Diligence" and the various ways this can be addressed. Bowmann cited IECQ QC 080000 HSPM Compliance and Certification as a common sense option available to industry.

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## RELATED INFORMATION

### IEC links

#### IECQ

System for quality assessment of electronic components and associated materials and processes

#### IECQ 080000 Ed. 2 :

IEC Quality Assessment System for Electronic Components (IECQ) - Electrical and Electronic Components and Products - Hazardous Substance Process Management System Requirements (HSPM)

#### Certification bodies approved to issue IECQ HSPM Certificates

#### Companies that have obtained HSPM certification

#### IEC National Committee for Singapore

### External links

#### RoHS Directives:

European Union Directive (2002/95/EC) on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment

#### SPRING Singapore

#### SMA:

Singapore Manufacturers' Federation

#### APO:

Asian Productivity Organization

#### CEA:

Consumer Electronics Association

#### ECCB:

Electronic Components Certification Board

