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ISO 9001 REGISTERED

## Policy and Plan for RoHS / WEEE Compliance

June 15, 2005

On January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2003, The Parliament and Council of the European Union adopted two "Directives" aimed at eliminating or reducing the environmental impact of certain hazardous substances contained in Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE). They are Directive 2002/95/EC, on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (RoHS Directive), and Directive 2002/96/EC, on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE Directive). We believe that both of these standards have value on a global basis and our response at Trompeter Electronics and Semflex is in accordance with this.

The RoHS Directive restricts EEE from being placed on the European market after July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 if the equipment contains certain hazardous substances exceeding maximum concentration values (MCV) specified. These are: Mercury  $\geq 0.1\%$ , Lead  $\geq 0.1\%$ , hexavalent chromium  $\geq 0.1\%$ , Cadmium  $\geq 0.01\%$ , Polybrominated Biphenyls (PBB)  $\geq 0.1\%$ . and certain Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDE)  $\geq 0.1\%$  in applications not exempted elsewhere in the Directive.

The WEEE Directive is more complex, but the main thrust is at segregating WEEE from municipal landfills, and making "Producers" of EEE pay for the cost of separate collection, reuse, recycling and recovery of WEEE in the End of Life (EOL) condition. One of the WEEE requirements is for producers to mark their equipment with a recycle symbol, if the equipment is to be marketed in Europe from August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005. At present, it is our understanding that this requirement is intended to draw the attention of end users to the recycling requirement and applies only to fully functional, stand-alone equipment. Nevertheless, we are continuing to study this key issue and will make any information on a revision of policy available to all interested parties.

Trompeter Electronics and Semflex (sister companies co-located on the same campus in Mesa, AZ) are fully committed to complying with these directives, and continuing to meet the needs of our customers. We are currently in the process of collecting compliance information from our supply chain. We are also presently engaged in evaluating our products with respect to component level information, current assembly requirements and customer specifications. We expect that a vast majority of our products will be declared RoHS compliant as is. Once our component level information is collated and documented, we will make compliance status information available to our customers.

It is likely that we will differentiate between RoHS-5 and RoHS-6 compliance in a manner complimentary to the position that several of our larger customers have taken. RoHS-5 deals with all of the heavy metals involved in RoHS with the single exception of lead. RoHS-6 is all inclusive. Some of our customers are adamant that we not change our product to degrade quality or fitness for use by becoming RoHS compliant. In the telephone network infrastructure, for example, the industry worked for years to eliminate a primary cause of random catastrophic network outages caused by the growth of dendritic tin whiskers by the addition of lead to solder compounds. Partly as a result, there are exemptions.

For example, the Directive provides for continuation of the current required use of lead in solders in certain critical applications related to Network Infrastructure Equipment (NIE) and in Servers, storage and storage array systems where reliable alternatives have not yet been established. Trompeter Electronics and Semflex provide products for use in these sectors, and will continue to support the needs of these and all other customers.

In another example, the RoHS and WEEE Directives do not apply to military applications. Furthermore, EEE used in certain commercial applications are exempt from some requirements. These exemptions

Taking into account the complexities of supporting parallel streams of existing and revised product, Trompeter Electronics and Semflex have committed to a RoHS-5 / WEEE compliance date of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006. Wherever possible, we will endeavor to make compliant product available before this time to customers committed to a more aggressive schedule.

Our plan has been and is to reduce and, wherever possible, eliminate the materials involved in RoHS. As a company, we have a commitment to ourselves to behave as good stewards of our planet, particularly regarding environmental issues.

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