

DIRECTIVES

COMMISSION DELEGATED DIRECTIVE (EU) 2020/360

of 17 December 2019

amending, for the purposes of adapting to scientific and technical progress, Annex IV to Directive 2011/65/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards an exemption for lead in platinized platinum electrodes used for certain conductivity measurements

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Directive 2011/65/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2011 on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 5(1)(a) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Directive 2011/65/EU requires Member States to ensure that electrical and electronic equipment placed on the market does not contain the hazardous substances listed in Annex II to that Directive. That restriction does not apply to certain exempted applications which are specific to medical devices and monitoring and control instruments and are listed in Annex IV to that Directive.
- (2) The categories of electrical and electronic equipment to which Directive 2011/65/EU applies are listed in Annex I to that Directive.
- (3) Lead is a restricted substance listed in Annex II to Directive 2011/65/EU.
- (4) By Delegated Directive 2014/73/EU ⁽²⁾, the Commission granted an exemption for the use of lead in platinized platinum electrodes used for conductivity measurements where certain conditions apply ('the exemption'), by including the relevant applications in Annex IV to Directive 2011/65/EU. The exemption was to expire on 31 December 2018, in accordance with the third subparagraph of Article 5(2) of that Directive.
- (5) The Commission received an application for renewal of the exemption ('the renewal request') on 30 June 2017, that is within the time limit laid down in Article 5(5) of Directive 2011/65/EU. In accordance with that provision, the exemption remains valid until a decision on the renewal request has been adopted.
- (6) The evaluation of the renewal request included stakeholder consultations in accordance with Article 5(7) of Directive 2011/65/EU.
- (7) Lead-containing platinized platinum electrodes are used in specialised instruments for measurements which require certain measurement qualities such as wide range, high accuracy, or high reliability for high concentration of acid and alkali.
- (8) Due to the lack of reliable alternatives, a substitution or elimination of lead in the applications concerned is currently scientifically and technically impracticable for certain measurement instruments. The renewal of the exemption is consistent with Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽³⁾ and thus does not weaken the environmental and health protection afforded by it.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 174, 1.7.2011, p. 88.

⁽²⁾ Commission Delegated Directive 2014/73/EU of 13 March 2014 amending, for the purposes of adapting to technical progress, Annex IV to Directive 2011/65/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards an exemption for lead in platinized platinum electrodes used for conductivity measurements (OJ L 148, 20.5.2014, p. 80).

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) and establishing a European Chemicals Agency (OJ L 396, 30.12.2006, p. 1).

- (9) It is, therefore, appropriate to grant the renewal of the exemption.
- (10) The exemption should be renewed for the maximum duration of 7 years until 31 December 2025, in accordance with Article 4(3) and the third subparagraph of Article 5(2) of Directive 2011/65/EU. In view of the results of the ongoing efforts to find a reliable substitution, the duration of the exemption is unlikely to have adverse impacts on innovation.
- (11) Directive 2011/65/EU should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

Article 1

Annex IV to Directive 2011/65/EU is amended as set out in the Annex to this Directive.

Article 2

1. Member States shall adopt and publish, by 31 March 2021 at the latest, the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive. They shall forthwith communicate to the Commission the text of those provisions.

They shall apply those provisions from 1 April 2021.

When Member States adopt those provisions, they shall contain a reference to this Directive or be accompanied by such a reference on the occasion of their official publication. Member States shall determine how such reference is to be made.

2. Member States shall communicate to the Commission the text of the main provisions of national law which they adopt in the field covered by this Directive.

Article 3

This Directive shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Article 4

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 17 December 2019.

For the Commission
The President
Ursula VON DER LEYEN

ANNEX

In Annex IV to Directive 2011/65/EU, entry 37 is replaced by the following:

- ‘37. Lead in platinized platinum electrodes used for conductivity measurements where at least one of the following conditions applies:
- (a) wide-range measurements with a conductivity range covering more than 1 order of magnitude (e.g. range between 0,1 mS/m and 5 mS/m) in laboratory applications for unknown concentrations;
 - (b) measurements of solutions where an accuracy of ± 1 % of the sample range and where high corrosion resistance of the electrode are required for any of the following:
 - (i) solutions with an acidity $< \text{pH } 1$;
 - (ii) solutions with an alkalinity $> \text{pH } 13$;
 - (iii) corrosive solutions containing halogen gas;
 - (c) measurements of conductivities above 100 mS/m that must be performed with portable instruments.

Expires on 31 December 2025.’
