



## European Union Directive Related to Restriction of use of certain Hazardous Substances (RoHS)

January 2022

The Restriction of use of certain Hazardous Substances (RoHS) (Directive 2002/95/EC, Directive 2011/65/EU and EU 2015/863) states that certain types of equipment, primarily medical and consumer electronic products such as appliances, personal computers, toys, and cell phones, shall not contain specified "hazardous substances." Compaero does not produce OEM products of this type.

In many cases, finish treatments that include RoHS-controlled substances are required under governmental, other agency and customer specifications. Our part numbers contain a broad range of finish treatment ordering codes.

A number of products Compaero sells can be specified with cadmium plating that contains more than 0.1% by weight cadmium, one of the hazardous substances listed in the RoHS Directive. Affected plating types include:

Finish
Cadmium, Black
Cadmium, Olive Drab
Cadmium, No Chromate
Cadmium, Clear
Cadmium, Yellow
Cadmium, Gold
Cadmium, Olive Drab - Selective Plating

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### **Customer Safe Use Information:**

The use of cadmium as a plating finish has been much reduced over the years, but it still has an important role in safety critical applications.

As a plated surface on a component, cadmium does not represent a health risk as cadmium is not easily absorbed through the skin. Handling cadmium plated items poses no risk to the user.

The main health risk is cadmium dust or vapor which can be generated by such actions as machining or welding cadmium plated items. Inhalation, followed by ingestion, are the main routes of entry of cadmium. If corroded, cadmium forms a white crystalline cadmium salt deposit on the surface of the plating, and this can represent a health risk if not handled properly. The deposit may enter the body through inhalation if it becomes airborne (e.g., when packaging around the part is opened) or ingestion (if a person eats or smokes without washing their hands after touching the deposit).

Cadmium dust, and the compounds formed when it corrodes are toxic by ingestion, toxic if inhaled, may cause cancer, and are suspected of being able to cause genetic defects, damage fertility and be harmful to the unborn child.

### **Handling Instructions:**

No precautions are required for handling cadmium plated items in the as-supplied condition.

It is recommended that cadmium plated articles should not be heated (e.g., welded) or machined by the end user.

If it is necessary to handle products with corroded cadmium plating, suitable gloves and respiratory protection should be worn and care taken to minimize the corrosion products becoming airborne.

### **Disposal Instructions:**

The article should be disposed of in accordance with all applicable governmental regulations relevant to the geographical location.

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