

EN

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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(17.6.2026)

The Commission does not intend to review the phase-out dates for the import, export and manufacture of mercury-containing lamps for general lighting purposes. Article 4(1) of the Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directive¹ prohibits the placing on the EU market and import into the EU of certain electrical and electronic equipment containing mercury. Annex III to that Directive lists, inter alia, certain mercury-added lamps which are exempt from that prohibition until the dates set out therein.

The exemptions for mercury-containing lamps for general lighting purposes expired between 13 April 2016 and 24 February 2025, in particular the exemption for most high-pressure sodium (vapour) lamps for general lighting purposes that have an improved colouring index expired on 24 February 2023. Considering the specifications of the received request for the colour rendering index and the power used per burner, the exemption in question is the remaining exemption for high-pressure sodium (vapour) lamps for general lighting purposes listed in entry 4(b) of Annex III to the RoHS Directive, which expires on 24 February 2027.

According to Article 5(5) of the RoHS Directive, an application to renew an exemption must be submitted at least 18 months before the exemption expires. In this case, however, the Commission did not receive a renewal request, meaning that the exemption listed in entry 4(b) is set to expire after the above date. The Exemptions list: Validity and rolling plan February 2026² provides information on this matter.

¹ 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, OJ L 174, 1.7.2011, p. 88–110.

² https://environment.ec.europa.eu/document/2e1f3934-a6e0-406a-9c7b-491f7a34fcb7_en.