

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Design Chain Associates, LLC and EPTAC to Present Seminars on Compliance with EU RoHS and WEEE Hazardous Materials (aka "Lead-Free") Directives

Boston, MA – January 20, 2004 – On July 1, 2006 the European Union will begin restricting the material content of electronic products being shipped within and into the EU. There are several elements and compounds affected. The most common is lead (Pb). "Lead-Free" is not just about manufacturing; it is not just about doing business in Europe; and you cannot wait until 2006 to get started. Your materials suppliers are shipping Lead-Free products today and your competitors are preparing for the transition today.

Design Chain Associates LLC, the leading design chain consulting firm, and EPTAC, the leading manufacturing training and consulting firm, have jointly developed a half-day **Introduction to Lead Free Seminar** which will get you on the fast track. We will show you how Lead-Free will impact many of your business processes and the areas you will need to address to be successful. If your company does not have plans in place today for the following key business issues or you want to learn more about what others are doing, this is the seminar for you.

Key business issues covered in the seminar include:

- Overview: The Big Picture
- Lead-Free: Legislation, Materials
- Business Environment: Cost of non-conformance, materials availability, competitors
- Business Processes: New Product Development, Contracts, Product Lifecycle, Outsourcing Procurement, Logistics
- Resources: Design Engineers, Manufacturing Engineers, Equipment and Material Suppliers
- Equipment: Engineering, Manufacturing, Facilities, Operational Cost, Availability
- Design: Design for Disassembly (recycling), Reliability Impact, Product Design Documentation
- Manufacturing Process: Equipment and Maintenance, Wave Solder Parameters, Oven Thermal Profiling
- Materials: Components, Boards, Flux, Solder, Tools, Solvents, Availability

Who should attend:

- Executive Management
- Engineering Management
- Procurement Management
- Operations and Manufacturing Management
- Procurement Professionals
- Design Engineers
- Manufacturing Engineers
- Compliance Officers
- Component Engineers

- Manufacturing Engineers
- QA/Reliability Engineers
- Facilities Management

We are offering the seminar regionally or can customize and deliver a seminar best suited to the needs of your company at your facility. Contact DCA or EPTAC (information above) for locations, times, registration information or to schedule a customized on-site seminar.

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About Design Chain Associates, LLC

Design Chain Associates, LLC is a consulting firm that helps Electronics OEMs reduce time-to-market, ramp-to-volume time, and product cost by focusing on supply chain robustness and risk mitigation. Maximum supply chain robustness and optimized risk mitigation can only be achieved by applying appropriate focus, strategies, and business processes in the early stages of new product development, thus we are "Design Chain Associates", not "Supply Chain Associates". San Francisco-based DCA has a local presence in other high-tech regions of the country such as the Austin/Houston corridor and the Boston region as well as around the globe through local associates. For more information, visit DCA on the web at <http://www.designchainassociates.com>.

About EPTAC

EPTAC Corporation has been providing companies with the very latest in electronics production training since 1987. With several thousand students trained and certified, EPTAC continues to offer companies training in basics such as component identification and electrostatic discharge, all the way to advanced surface mount technologies and process automation. Founded in 1987, EPTAC offers a variety of training and certification programs to individuals and companies throughout the United States and Canada. EPTAC has developed an identity in the industry as a company capable of providing quality training and professional solutions to firms involved in electronics production. The company has grown from a single training program to providing over twenty-five (25) recurring training and certification classes and seminars. The programs that EPTAC currently delivers are based on industry standards such as IPC-A-610, J-STD-001, IPC-A-600, IPC-7711 and IPC-7721. For more information, visit EPTAC on the web at <http://www.eptac.com>.