March 31, 2011

ECIA Statement Regarding Radiation from the Recent Earthquake and Tsunami in Japan

The Electronic Components Industry Association (ECIA) extends our heartfelt condolences to all those affected by the disaster in Japan. In an effort to update the industry on disruptions in the supply chain due to materials and production availability as well as infrastructure conditions, ECIA has compiled updates and status reports from electronic component manufacturers, which may be found at (www.eciaonline.org/japan.html)

In addition to parts availability, the current situation in Japan has prompted questions about part contamination, radiation measurements, and personnel safety. ECIA is monitoring developments in Japan and will provide updates as we receive information relative to component shipment radiation risks for electronic industry supply chain members. (www.eciaonline.org)

U. S. Customs and Border Protection continues to measure radiation levels of cargo coming from Japan. The agency reports that air and sea cargo is currently being monitored for evidence of radiation and that there is no current risk related to electronic component shipments from Japan. There has been no cargo that has received a positive alert for radiation deemed by CBP to be at harmful levels. (See CBP below)

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), a division of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), states that the agency is unaware of any contamination from cargo or packages entering the United States. (cdc.gov/niosh/topics/radiation/workerinfo.html)

Other organizations including the World Health Organization and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration have agreed that there is little or no cause for concern about cargo or packages arriving from Japan.

ECIA encourages the industry and its customers to monitor the following agencies for the latest information.

- The US Customs and Border Patrol (CBP)
- The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
- The World Health Organization (WHO)

Based on the monitoring and testing being conducted by these various agencies, it is unlikely that the authorized components supply chain is contaminated. ECIA will supply industry updates as conditions change. (www.eciaonline.org)

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Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

The CBP has published several statements regarding the radiation situation resulting from the earthquakes and tsunami in Japan. Below are excerpters:

- Since 9/11, CBP has employed radiation detection technology at Ports of Entry…
- As the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and other experts have said, we do not expect to see radiation at harmful levels reaching the United States…
- Accordingly, cargo and travelers arriving from Japan will contain little to no radiological contamination…
- …since the event in Japan began, no person, baggage, cargo or aircraft entering the United States has received a positive alert for radiation deemed by CBP to be at harmful levels.
  www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/newsroom/news_releases/national/03172011_6.xml
- … CBP continues to use sensitive, large-scale Radiation Portal Monitors (RPM) and scans all maritime cargo and express consignment and mail arriving from Japan.
  www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/newsroom/news_releases/national/03172011_6.xml

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

NIOSH is a division of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Their statement (cdc.gov/niosh/topics/radiation/workerinfo.html) includes assurances that:

- NIOSH is unaware of any contamination from cargo or packages arriving from Japan
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection is closely monitoring all cargo coming from Japan.