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NEMA CALLS FOR COMMITMENT TO RESTRICT HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES IN ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS

ROSSLYN, VA, October 27, 2006—Consistent with its history of responsible environmental stewardship, the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) today announced an industry-wide commitment to limit the use of hazardous materials in electrical products.

NEMA's "call to action" on restricted substances will proceed in two phases. Phase one reflects the regulatory thresholds contained in the Directive on the Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment (RoHS Directive), which restricts the amount of lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, and two flame retardants in designated categories of electrical and electronic products sold in the European Union. NEMA companies that sell product in Europe are currently meeting the RoHS standards and some have voluntarily met or gone beyond those standards in non-European markets as well. Under phase one of the "call to action," all NEMA companies that manufacture products within the scope of the RoHS Directive will achieve the RoHS standards in all markets worldwide in which those products are sold by July 1, 2010, unless an exemption is necessary to maintain safety and performance standards.

Phase two calls for NEMA product sections to establish and attain substance restrictions for virtually all other NEMA products, within the limits of technical achievability, and the need to ensure safety and performance by July 1, 2014. By focusing the industry's expertise on these targets, NEMA removes the need for policymakers to impose product design restrictions on the electrical products industry.

"NEMA product sections are uniquely qualified to determine technically feasible substance thresholds for their products based on sound science," says Evan Gaddis, NEMA's president and

chief executive officer. “This voluntary commitment places us on the right side of an important global issue and helps keep our destiny in our own hands,” he said.

NEMA’s Board of Governors formally adopted the “call to action” at a recent meeting by approving both phases’ target measures, as well as a set of guiding principles. These principles provide the context for the initiative and embody its priorities, such as the need to maintain safety standards and avoid inconsistent regulations at the state level.

NEMA is the trade association of choice for the electrical manufacturing industry. Founded in 1926 and headquartered near Washington, D.C., its 430 member companies manufacture products used in the generation, transmission and distribution, control, and end-use of electricity. These products are used in utility, medical imaging, industrial, commercial, institutional, and residential applications. Domestic production of electrical products sold worldwide exceeds \$120 billion. In addition to its headquarters in Rosslyn, Virginia, NEMA also has offices in Beijing, São Paulo, and Mexico City.

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