

Frequently Asked Questions about CE Marking

CE Marking – Summary

- It is compulsory by law (includes market surveillance).
- It indicates how a product shows performance levels in accordance with European standards.
- It is a statement made by the manufacturer (or importer from products outside EU) that the product performs as it should.
- It is applied under manufacturers or importer own responsibility.
- It is required to put a product on the European market.

Frequently Asked Questions about CE Marking

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EPW - European Plastic Window Association

FAECF - Federation of European Window and Curtain Wall Manufacturers' Associations

FEMIB - Federation of the Building Joinery Associations

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1 CE Marking

1-1) Why CE Marking?

- Prevents obstacles to trade
- A single European market with no internal borders
- Safe, healthy products for the intended use
- To show compliance with the Construction Products Directive (CPD) and its transposition into the building regulation in the place of use
- Compilation of European methods for determination, testing and classification of characteristics of building products. These characteristics are indicated in CE Marking.

1-2) What is CE Marking?



CE Marking is indicated by means of the CE mark, which is the official symbol of CE Marking. CE Marking means the same thing throughout the European Union. Officially, the letters are not an abbreviation, but are generally taken to stand for Conformité Européenne.

1-3) What does the CE mark mean?

When the CE mark is applied to a product and/or accompanying documents, it indicates conformity with the harmonised part of the European Standard (EN) or European Technical Approval Guideline (ETAG). This means that the product can be traded all over the European Union, but has to be checked if the product fulfils the requirements in the place of use.

1-4) What are the requirements for CE Marking?

In principle, CE Marking sets no requirements, but it does establish the performance characteristics for a product. Depending on the country or type of product, minimum performance levels can be required. An example of this are electrical devices such as coffee machines that must not produce electric shocks when touched. This applies to all EU countries. However, the CE Marking does not tell us whether the coffee tastes good or not.

In the world of construction materials, the CE Marking indicates the conformity of the material with the relevant European specifications. This means that the assembled CE-marked product (with the CE mark), provided it is used and maintained correctly, satisfies the six main aspects of the European Construction Products Directives.

1-5) What are the six essential requirements (ER) of the European CPD?

1. Mechanical resistance and stability
2. Safety in case of fire
3. Hygiene, health and the environment
4. Safety in use
5. Protection against noise
6. Energy economy and heat retention

These ER have been translated into characteristics for construction products in harmonized technical specifications.

1-6) When can CE Marking be applied?

CE Marking and declaration of conformity can only be issued if a harmonised technical specification exists and has been cited in the Official Journal of EU with dates of co-existence period.

Products that refer to a European harmonised standard (EN XXXX) follow the CEN procedure. For example: windows and doors.

Products that refer to an ETAG (ETAG XXXX) follow the EOTA procedure. For example: Structural Sealant Glazing System (SSGS). An European Technical Approval (ETA) is issued on the basis of an European Technical Approval Guideline (ETAG).

1-7) Is CE Marking compulsory?

Yes. CE Marking is compulsory after the co-existence period. The obligation takes effect about one year (depending on the standard) after publication of the harmonised standard or the ETAG when the conflicting national documents should be withdrawn. This applies to all EU countries except Ireland, Finland, Sweden and United Kingdom, which disagree to compulsory CE marking and are in discussion with the European Commission.

1-8) Which countries are obliged to ask for CE Marking?

This obligation also applies to countries within the European Economic Area, so including Norway and Iceland, etc.

1-9) How do you get CE Marking?

For both kinds of CE Marking (via CEN or via EOTA), the CE Marking of a product is bound to a declaration of conformity signed by the manufacturer or its agent in the EU. This requirement was introduced to provide legal control over manufacturers that sell products from outside the European Union on the European market.

Frequently Asked Questions about CE Marking

1-10) Why are there different kinds of Attestation of Conformity (AoC)?

The member states liked to have for special characteristics, such as in the case of fire or stability, a higher control of manufacturer's production.

1-11) What are the different AoC systems?

AoC	Task of manufacturer			Task of notified body			
	Factory production control (FPC)	Initial type test (ITT)	Further testing of samples taken at factory	Initial inspection of FPC	Initial type test (ITT)	Continious surveillance	Testing of samples taken at factory
1+	X		X	X	X	X	X
1	X			X	X	X	
2+	X	X	X	X		X	
2	X	X	X	X			
3	X				X		
4	X	X					

System 3 is used for windows, doors and curtain walls (except with regard to fire safety and SSGS). System 1 is used for some cases of fire safety and SSGS.

1-12) How many CE marks can be applied on a product?

Only one.

There are undoubtedly a number of products, particularly in the mechanical and electrical services field, that will simultaneously be under the scope of a number of EC Directives (e.g. the Low Voltage Directive, the Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive, the Machinery Directive, the Construction Products Directive).

The Commission is requesting CEN or EOTA to include in the harmonised technical specification under the Construction Products Directive all necessary information on the other Directives that apply for a given product.

1-13) What is a mandate in the framework of Construction Products Directive (CPD)?

A mandate under the Construction Product Directive is a request from the Commission addressed to the European Standards Organisations (CEN/CENELEC/ETSI), or to the European Organisation for Technical Approvals (EOTA) to undertake technical work for the preparation of harmonised European technical specifications.

The mandate is given by the European Commission after consultation with the Standing Committee on Construction (see article 19 of the Construction Products Directive) to ensure that existing national requirements are covered.

Frequently Asked Questions about CE Marking

1-14) What does the CE-marking mean on a construction product?

The CE marking means that the product satisfies the provisions of the CPD via the harmonised technical specifications, including the conformity assessment procedures laid down in the relevant Attestation of Conformity decision.

When the product is subject to other Directives with regard to other aspects, which also provide for the affixing of the CE marking, the CE marking indicates that the product also satisfies the essential requirements of those other Directives.

The CE marking thus demonstrates that the product meets all the legal requirements necessary to be placed on the entire European Internal Market (and used with the requested performance level considering the building application rules in the place of use).

1-15) What technical specification must a product comply with in order to qualify for the CE marking?

The CE marking requires conformity with one of the following:

- a national standard transposing (i.e. reproducing) a harmonised European standard (Art. 4,2a),
- a European technical approval (Art. 4,2b), or
- a national technical specification recognised by the Commission as meeting the essential requirements of the CPD (Art. 4,2c).

There are currently no recognised national technical specifications according to Art. 4,2c

1-16) With which clauses of the standard has the manufacturer to comply in order to be entitled to affix the CE marking on the product?

The manufacturer must comply with Annex Z in order to be able to put the CE marking on his products.

Whether a product carries a voluntary mark or not is irrelevant from a regulators point of view.

1-17) What is the difference between the harmonised and the non-harmonised (voluntary) part in a product standard?

The harmonised standards are prepared following a mandate from the Commission to CEN. The mandates define the characteristics of the products which must be covered, following from regulations in Member States. This means that products bearing the CE marking, i.e. complying with the harmonised specification, can be sold within the EU. Justified restrictions may still exist in cases where specific classes and/or levels of performance are required by a Member State as foreseen in the Art. 3.2 of the CPD.

Harmonised product standards have an Annex Z which clearly identifies which parts of the whole standard that are mandatory for CE marking. The voluntary part of the standard covers those characteristics which remain voluntary and cannot form part of the CE marking.

Frequently Asked Questions about CE Marking

1-18) Can test methods and calculation methods (as alternatives within the harmonised technical specifications) be used to determine the performance of a product for mandated characteristics?

Yes, but only test or calculation methods (or tabulated values) defined in the harmonised technical specifications are allowed to be used.

Frequently Asked Questions about CE Marking

2 CE Marking in Fenestration

2-1) What CE-relevant standards already exist for the fenestration industry?

Following table is an extract from the publication in Official Journal of the European Union, which is updated from time to time (see eur-lex.europa.eu OJEU 2006/C 304/01 from 13th December 2006)

Productstandard	Product	Date of the beginning of the co-existence period	Date of the end of the co-existence period
EN 179/A1/AC	Building hardware - Emergency exit devices operated by a lever handle or push pad - Requirements and test methods	01/04/2002	01/04/2003
EN 572-9	Glass in building - Basic soda lime silicate glass products - Part 9: Evaluation of conformity/Product standard	01/09/2005	01/09/2006
EN 1096-4	Glass in building - Coated glass - Part 4: Evaluation of conformity/Product standard	01/09/2006	01/09/2007
EN 1125/A1/AC	Building hardware - Panic exit devices operated by a horizontal bar - Requirements and test methods	01/04/2002	01/04/2003
EN 1154	Building hardware - Controlled door closing devices - Requirement and test methods	01/10/2003	01/10/2004
EN 1155	Building hardware - Electrically powered hold-open devices for swing doors - Requirements and test methods	01/10/2003	01/10/2004
EN 1279-5	Glass in building - Insulating glass units - Part 5: Evaluation of conformity	01/03/2006	01/03/2007
EN 1748-1-2	Glass in building - Special basic products - Borosilicate glasses - Part 1-2: Evaluation of conformity/Product standard	01/09/2005	01/09/2006
EN 1748-2-2	Glass in building - Special basic products - Glass ceramics - Part 2-2: Evaluation of conformity/Product standard	01/09/2005	01/09/2006
EN 1863-2	Glass in building - Heat strengthened soda lime silicate glass - Part 2: Evaluation of conformity/Product standard	01/09/2005	01/09/2006
EN 1935	Building hardware - Single-axis hinges - Requirements and tests methods	01/10/2002	01/12/2003
EN 12209	Building hardware - Locks and latches - Mechanically operated locks, latches and locking plates - Requirements and test methods	01/12/2004	01/12/2005
EN 12101-2	Smoke and heat control systems - Part 2: Specification for natural smoke and heat exhaust ventilators	01/04/2004	01/09/2006
EN 13241-1	Industrial, commercial and garage doors and gates - Product standard - Part 1: Products without fire resistance or smoke control characteristics	01/05/2004	01/05/2005
EN 13561	External blinds - Performance requirements including safety	01/03/2005	01/03/2006
EN 13659	Shutters - Performance requirements including safety	01/04/2005	01/04/2006
EN 13830	Curtain walling - Product standard	01/12/2004	01/12/2005
EN 12150-2	Glass in building - Thermally toughened soda lime silicate safety glass - Part 2: Evaluation of conformity/Product standard	01/09/2005	01/09/2006
EN 12337-2	Glass in building - Chemically strengthened soda lime silicate glass - Part 2: Evaluation of conformity/Product standard	01/09/2005	01/09/2006
EN 13024-2	Glass in building - Thermally toughened borosilicate safety glass - Part 2: Evaluation of conformity/Product standard	01/09/2005	01/09/2006
EN 14178-2	Glass in building - Basic alkaline earth silicate glass products - Part 2: Evaluation of conformity/Product standard	01/09/2006	01/09/2007
EN 14179-2	Glass in building - Heat soaked thermally toughened soda lime silicate safety glass - Part 2: Evaluation of conformity/Product standard	01/03/2006	01/03/2007
EN 14321-2	Glass in building - Thermally toughened alkaline earth silicate safety glass - Part 2: Evaluation of conformity/Product standard	01/06/2006	01/06/2007

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Productstandard	Product	Date of the beginning of the co-existence period	Date of the end of the co-existence period
EN 14351-1	Windows and pedestrian doorsets - Product standard, performance characteristics - Part 1: Windows and external pedestrian doorsets without resistance to fire and smoke leakage characteristics	01/02/2007	01/02/2009
EN 14449	Glass in building - Laminated glass and laminated safety glass - Evaluation of conformity/Product standard	01/03/2006	01/03/2007
ETAG 002-1	Structural Sealant Glazing Systems Part 1: Supported and unsupported systems	24/09/1998	01/06/2003
ETAG 002-2	Structural Sealant Glazing Systems Part 2: Coated Aluminium systems	16/01/2002	16/10/2004
ETAG 002-3	Structural Sealant Glazing Systems Part 3: Thermal Breaks	25/05/2002	01/02/2005
ETAG 003	Internal Partition Kits for use as non-loadbearing walls	05/02/1999	31/03/2004
ETAG 010	Self supporting translucent roof kits	24/09/2002	31/08/2006
ETAG 016-1	Self Supporting Composite Lightweight Panels - Part one: General	09/02/2004	30/11/2006
ETAG 016-2	Self Supporting Composite Lightweight Panels - Part two: Specific aspects relating to self-supporting Composite Lightweight Panels for use in roofs	17/02/2004	30/11/2006
ETAG 016-3	Self Supporting Composite Lightweight Panels - Part three: Specific aspects relating to self-supporting composite lightweight panels for use in external walls and claddings	02/03/2004	31/12/2006
ETAG 016-4	Self Supporting Composite Lightweight Panels - Part four: Specific aspects relating to self-supporting composite lightweight panels for use in internal walls and ceilings	02/03/2004	13/12/2006

2-2) What CE-relevant standards are in the pipeline?

Upcoming standards:

Productstandard	Product
prEN 1051-2	Glass in building - Glass blocks and glass paver units - Part 2: Evaluation of conformity
prEN 13120	Internal blinds - Performance requirements including safety
prEN 13022-2	Glass in building - Structural sealant glazing - Part 2: Product standard for ultra-violet resistant sealant and structural sealant
prEN 14351-2	Windows and pedestrian doorsets - Product standard, performance characteristics - Part 2: Windows and internal pedestrian doorsets without resistance to fire and smoke leakage characteristics
prEN 14351-3	Windows and pedestrian doorsets - Product standard, performance characteristics - Part 3: Product with resistance to fire and smoke leakage characteristics

2-3) National standardisation institutes only issues standards as "National Standard" EN XXXX. What is the difference?

All European standards are published as EN XXXX. These standards are always available in three languages: English, German and French. The National Standardisation Institute publishes these standards independently, but they always require a national front page. The standard itself does not have to be translated into a country's own language but it may be if there is sufficient demand. The content of the standard must always be the same, however.

2-4) What does NPD stand for?

NPD stands for No Performance Determined. It can be used if a manufacturer does not want to declare his (determined) performance and if there is no legal requirement on the characteristic in the place of use.

NB: Theoretically, a CE marking can be issued that indicates NPD for all aspects. Such a product may be traded but may hardly never be actually used.

2-5) For what characteristics do values have to be declared?

Only those aspects for which a certain level of performance is required by regulatory requirements on that characteristic for the intended use of the product have to be declared in the CE marking. Other aspects may also be declared of course.

2-6) When is the CE Marking of products to take effect?

Officially, when the product is placed onto the market after end of co-existance period, it must have CE Marking.

2-7) What is “to place on the marked”?

Chapter 2.3 of “Guide to the implementation of directives based on the New Approach and the Global Approach” defines as follows:

“Placing on the market is the initial action of making a product available for the first time on the Community market, with a view to distribution or use in the Community. Making available can be either for payment or free of charge.”

2-8) What happens if a product is supplied without or incorrect CE Marking?

The product has to be CE marked in a correct way or it is illegal on the market and has to be removed from the marked by Member States. Legal consequences depends on national legislation.

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