



# LEGISLATION AND STANDARDS

## CE Marking

### What it means for PPE

#### What is the meaning of a CE mark?

CE marking can in simple terms be described as a passport or a "license to sell" allowing free movement within the internal market of the European Union.

It simplifies the task of the market surveillance, but also informs you (consumer, safety advisors, purchasers), that the product meets the essential requirements relating to safety, public health, consumer protection and other specific aspects of community interest. The CE marking for PPE is compulsory since 1 July 1995.

The legal instrument laying down the requirements for CE marking of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is the European Directive 89/686/EEC. You can find the full text on the website of the European Union at the following address: <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex>

This directive has been transposed into national legislation of which you can find the references at the following address: <http://europa.eu.int/scadplus>

#### Does the CE mark tell me anything about the performance of the PPE?

The technical performance of PPE is specified by European Norms, harmonised standards or in a technical file when a harmonised standard does not exist.

You should be able to find all useful aspects of performance, comfort and use limitations in the instructions for use, on the packaging or instruction leaflet.

#### What certification procedures are in place for different types of PPE?

The Directive 89/686/EEC divides all PPE into three different categories according to the degree of risk. The higher the risk the PPE needs to protect against, the more stringent the certification procedure.

### Category I

Some risks can be called minimal. This is when you as a user can easily assess the level of protection needed, or when the effects are gradual so that you can safely identify the risk in good time. Some examples of PPE's in this category are:

- gardening gloves
- sun glasses
- garments and footwear designed for use in bad weather conditions.

#### Certification procedure:

The manufacturer has to assemble the technical documentation so that this can, if necessary, be submitted to the competent authorities = self certification. The marking of category I products is as follows: **CE**

## Category II

PPE's belonging to this category are:

- Head protectors
- face eye protectors
- shoes protecting against normal risk
- all hearing protection

### Certification procedure:

The manufacturer has to submit products for EC type examination to a recognised test house. Also for category II products the marking consist of the letters CE.

## Category III

All PPE intended to protect against mortal danger or dangers which may seriously and irreversibly damage health or where the effects cannot be identified in sufficient time belong to category III.

- all respirators
- fall arrest equipment
- PPE protecting against extreme heat (> 100°C)
- PPE protecting against extreme cold (< -50°C)
- PPE protecting against electrical risk
- PPE protecting against chemicals and ionising radiation

### Certification procedure:

On top of the EC type examination the manufacturer has to establish an EC quality control system for the final product or a system for ensuring the quality of the production by means of monitoring (under supervision of a notified body).

The marking for category III products is different from the two other:

- CE 0086
- 0086 is an example of an identification number of the notified body involved in the production control phase.

## Looking for more detailed information?

You can find more information about the categorisation of PPE in the following document of the European Commission: Useful Facts on PPE:

[Guide for the categorisation of Personal Protective Equipment](#)

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