

UKCA and **CE** Marking

Prior to the UK leaving the European Union (EU), manufacturers selling products covered by the New Approach Directive within the European Economic Area (EEA) were expected to meet CE Marking standards and issue an EC Declaration of Conformity (DoC). Whilst we can still measure the quality of products with a CE Mark up until 1 January 2023 (recently extended), following Brexit the UK needed to create its own standard to assess whether products conform to all legal safety requirements. This new standard is called the UK Conformity Assessed mark (UKCA) and all specified products sold to the UK must be reviewed by an accredited UK Market Conformity Body.

It appears that the requirements are not drastically different, so for companies who already meet CE Mark standards, it's unlikely to be a big concern from a product performance point of view. However, the CA Mark is only recognised within the UK and does not demonstrate compliance as per the EU Directive. If a business supplies to the EEA and the UK, it will need to ensure that it has both a CE and CA Mark in place by 1 January 2022, and currently that could mean having to duplicate the testing process, as the relevant certifying bodies are not currently mutually recognised. For goods sold in Northern Ireland, from 1 January 2021 manufacturers are expected to follow the Northern Ireland Protocol so that their products are assessed to European standards by an approved third party for the new UKNI mark.



Literature

Manufacturers will need to go through any brochures

and marketing material to ensure they are accurate and up to date. Where each references standards, a document will need to be amended for the country being supplied to (ie. BS for the UK and EN and ISO for European countries, where they aren't universal). All existing EU certificates will need to be transferred to one of the 27 EU member states or a relevant authority as the GB ones will not be valid.

Record keeping

Documentation that relates to a UKCA mark must be stored in the form of a technical file by the manufacturer or an authorised representative for 10 years after the product went to market, as it may be requested by relevant parties to check it conforms. A UK Declaration of Conformity, which is much like the EU Declaration of Conformity, is also required.

See the UK Government's guide on <u>Using the UKCA Mark</u> to see how to use the mark and what should be included in supporting documents.



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Contact and further guidance:

Please feel free to contact us by e-mailing info@epic.uk.com. Alternatively, additional guidance and reference documents can be found on our website.

