

CE Marking Explained

Are you aware that from 1st July 2013 the Construction Products Regulations come into force, which will require mandatory CE marking?



The Construction Products Regulations (CPR) comes into force on 1st July 2013 and will significantly change the landscape of the construction industry. From the 1st July, it will become a legal requirement for construction products manufactured under the Scope of harmonised European standards (hEN's) to be CE marked. It will be a criminal offence to sell such products without the CE mark.

The Construction Products Directive (CPD) was originally intended to make CE marking mandatory in the 1990's, however there was a loophole in the wording of the Directive that resulted in 4 countries opting for voluntary CE marking and the UK was one of these countries. The CPR will address the anomalies from 1st July with mandatory CE marking.

At the present time, standards are voluntary, but from 1st July, they will be mandatory and the only way to assess a product which is covered by the harmonised element of the

standard is to use the assessment methods and criteria described in that particular harmonised standard.

The CPR sets out to ensure that everyone in the supply chain including the end - user, specifier, contractor, builders merchant/ distributor – and manufacturer, can be confident that the product in question is safe to use and is at a minimum performance level fit for purpose.

Depending upon the product and its application, hEN's address seven basic requirements, not all of which apply to all construction products:

- mechanical resistance and stability
- safety in case of fire
- hygiene
- health and the environment
- safety and accessibility in use
- protection against noise
- energy economy and heat retention and sustainable use of natural resources.



Under the CPR, there are various levels of what is known as Assessment and Verification of Constancy of Performance which range from manufacturer declared performance for non-critical safety products to full independent third party testing of product, on-going product surveillance and factory production control for safety critical products, all of which is described in the hEN.

CE Marking Explained

From our experience, we are asked a common set of questions from various sectors of the construction industry which highlights the uncertainty surrounding the whole topic of the CPR and CE marking. By way of illustration, these are listed below:

Q: Is the CE mark a sign of product quality?

A: The simple answer is no. What the CE mark does show is that the product has been tested to minimum performance requirements as set out in the harmonised standard. The CE mark is essentially only a passport for trade throughout the European Union.

Q: I specify products using standards, how do I know if a standard is a hEN?

A: A hEN has an Annex ZA at the rear of the standard and this will state the 'Essential Characteristics' relating to that standard. If there is no Annex ZA, this is not a harmonised standard.

Q: Can a product from a non-harmonised standard be CE marked?

A: No and it is illegal to do so.

Q: Is there an easy way to check if a standard is harmonised?

A: Yes, check online on: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/european-standards/harmonised-standards/construction-products/index_en.htm

Q: Can the manufacturer just print off the CE mark and apply it to a label?

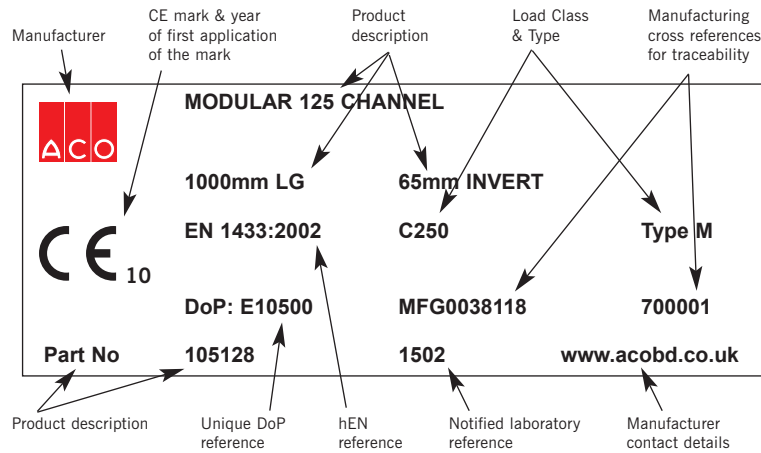
A: No and it is illegal to do so. The manufacturer must follow the protocol for CE marking as set out in the CPR.

Q: What is a DoP?

A: This is the Declaration of Performance from the manufacturer who declares the product conforms to the 'Essential Characteristics' of the hEN as described in Annex ZA.

Q: How do I interpret the product label?

A: A typical example of a product label is shown below:



Q: What should a product label bearing the CE mark look like?

A: How each label appears is down to the manufacturer however there is a minimum amount of information that must be displayed and is:

- The manufacturer and their contact details (web details can be used)
- Product identification reference
- CE mark
- Year in which the CE mark was first applied
- Full reference to the applicable product standard
- The declared performance of at least one of the 'Essential Characteristics' and for drainage channels, ACO state the Load Class. It should be noted that if a threshold value is stated in Annex ZA.1 then this must be declared

- Declaration of Performance reference number
- Notified Body reference

Q: Will I be able to get a copy of the DoP and test certificates?

A: The manufacturer is required to make the DoP available to the customer along with test certificates. It is likely that most manufacturers will make such documents available on their websites for easy download.

Q: What is a Notified Laboratory?

A: A Notified Laboratory is an independent testing house authorised by the European Commission to conduct independent tests on hEN related construction products. Each laboratory is issued with a unique identification number which relates to the CE product label. A list of Notified Laboratories can be found on: <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newapproach/nando/>



ACO Anti-flood systems
Certified to EN13564, CE mark



ACO Grease Separators
Certified to EN1825, CE mark



ACO slot and box channels
Certified to EN 1433, CE mark



ACO pipe
Certified to EN 1124, CE mark

ACO Building Drainage introduced CE marking on its standard products ahead of schedule in 2011. Providing assurance to our customers has been a key driver for ACO. We have done everything to protect our clients and end-users. Please contact us for help and advice.

The implications of not carrying CE marking on products are potentially very serious for the manufacturer and supply chain. After 1 July 2013 it will become a criminal offence to place any construction product covered by hENs on the market without an authorised CE mark. Any companies who do so could find themselves pursued by Trading Standards. If convicted, this could mean a fine and even potentially a prison sentence. So make sure that you follow the rules.

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