

BSI Update: Construction Products Regulation

Fire protection

What is the Construction Products Regulation (CPR) and how does it affect me?

Effective from July 2013 the Construction Products Regulation (CPR) will replace the Construction Products Directive (CPD). The most significant implication for you is that CE marking will become mandatory in the whole of the EU and the UK for those products covered by a European harmonised standard. In this sector products covered are:

- **Fire Detection Products** to the EN 54 series of standards, excluding EN 54-13 Compatibility
- **Domestic Fire Alarms to EN 14604**
- **Fixed Fire Fighting Systems** – Components for gas extinguishing systems to the EN 12094 series of standards*
- **Fixed Fire Fighting Systems** - Components for sprinkler and water spray systems to the EN 12259 series of standards*
- **Fixed Fire Fighting Systems** - Hose Systems – Hose reels and lay-flat hoses to EN 671 Parts 1 and 2.

** Where a series of standards are listed above, the requirement for CE marking only applies if the standard is a mandated harmonised standard listed on the European Commission's website for construction products.*

What will happen if you don't get your products CE Marked?

Failure to comply means that you will not be able to legally sell your construction products anywhere within the EU, including the UK. In addition, your Company's Director has a legal obligation to ensure all required products are CE marked.

What products are not affected?

Whilst compatibility testing for fire detection and alarm systems to the requirements of EN 54-13 is becoming more important and specifiers around Europe are asking for test reports to show systems comprising of all the components of a fire alarm

system work satisfactorily with fire alarm panels the standard is not mandated in the Official Journal of the European Union and is not expected to be in the foreseeable future.

How can you meet the requirements of the CPR?

By CE marking – however this must involve a Notified Body for the Construction Product Directive and in the future the CPR as the system for attestation of conformity for the above standards is 1 – type testing, initial inspection of factory production control and ongoing surveillance of factory production control. Current Notified Bodies to the CPD will need to re-apply to become Notified Bodies to the CPR. This process is expected to be completed next year ready for the CPR introduction in July 2013.

It is important you apply now, as CPD requirements will be similar or identical to the CPR requirements and time to achieve a certificate of conformity can in some cases be considerable. If left too late manufacturers or distributors in the EU will be unable to sell products in the EU until the products have satisfactorily passed the requirements of the process. Where products have met the requirements of the CPD the certificates will be deemed to be compliant to the CPR unless the standards to which the products have been approved have been amended or contain new or updated requirements.

How to attain product CE Marking

To apply the CE mark you will need to draw up a Declaration of Performance ensuring that your products meet the requirements of the relevant product standards. Some products that must comply with the CPD/CPR also must comply with other EU directives and where this is the case the manufacturer or organisation placing the product on the EU market must draw up similar declarations for each applicable directive.

For your Declaration of Performance to the CPR you will need to obtain an EC certificate of conformity covering the constancy of performance issued by a Notified Body and include its number on your CE marking information. >>

What do I do if I already have the Kitemark?

Kitemark covers CE marking to the CPD/CPR in most cases as BSI have already undertaken a type approval programme on the products and your quality system for the manufacture of the product will have been regularly audited by BSI. A factory production control visit would be required to cover the requirements contained in Annex ZA in the applicable standard.

When do I need to act to make sure that my products are ready for CE marking?

Although the legal change does not take effect until July 2013 you must act now to ensure that your products are ready in time. Programmes can take many months to complete particularly on complex products or where there is a diverse range of products to certify to the directive. If there are any problems that need to be resolved these can add to the time it takes to complete a project. Leaving requests for CE marking to the last minute will almost certainly result in the due date passing without the programme being completed or even in some cases being started.

Simple steps to obtaining an EC Certificate of Conformity

- You need to apply to a Notified Body who can issue you with a certificate of conformity covering the constancy of performance. BSI can act in this capacity so speak to a representative for a quote – Telephone: 0845 0765 606
- BSI as the Notified Body will need to carry out a type approval programme on the products and a Factory Production Control audit checking that the manufacturing system meets the requirements contained in Annex ZA of the applicable standard
- If you have any further questions regarding the CE process or of a technical nature a BSI specialist can advise you.



Further Information

To find out more about CE Marking and the Construction Products Regulation

Visit www.bsigroup.com/cpr

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