

UKCA marking



Frequently asked questions

Introduction

The UKCA (UK Conformity Assessment) mark is the new UK product marking that is required for certain products being placed on the market in Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland). It covers most products that previously required the CE mark.

The steps you need to take to prepare for UKCA marking will depend on the current status of your business and your future market access requirements. If your product requires the services of a notified body for third party assessment of conformity, you will need to check whether they are able to offer UKCA marking-related services. Only organizations who are approved bodies for UKCA marking will be able to offer this service.

Here we aim to address those initial questions that you may have as you begin your journey towards UKCA marking.

Please note, this document does not contain information relating to Medical Devices or IVDs as timelines for these products are different.



UK CA

1. General questions

What is the UKCA marking?

The UKCA marking (UKCA = "UK Conformity Assessed") is the new British product marking which will be required for certain products placed on the market in Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland).

When did the UKCA marking come into force?

The UKCA mark came into force on 1 January 2021 and will be mandatory for most products from 1 January 2022.

Which products are covered by the UKCA marking?

Most products currently covered by regulations and directives on CE marking will be covered by the UKCA mark.

How can companies prepare for the UKCA marking?

The steps you need to prepare for the UKCA marking depend on the current status of your company and your future market access requirements. If your product requires the services of a Notified Body for third party conformity assessment for CE marking, you will need to check whether they are also able to provide the UKCA marking.

Note: Only companies that are UKCA (UK Approved Body) approved for the UKCA marking can offer this service.

When is the right time?

Start as early as possible to secure UK market access, build resilience, protect your business and reduce the risk of Brexit. You can start this now.

What does the UKCA marking cost?

This will depend on many factors – for example, the regulations that apply to your products, the number of products you make, and the number of manufacturing locations you operate. BSI is happy to provide no-obligation fee proposals for providing this service, so please contact us.

How long does it take to obtain certification?

Again, this will depend on many factors – for example, the regulations that apply to your products, the number of products you make, and the number of manufacturing locations you operate. Realistically, we think this process should not take too long for products that were already CE marked, but remember there are very few Approved Bodies and they are likely to find it hard to meet the increased demand for UKCA services in the short-term.

When does the UKCA marking come into force?

UKCA marking became a requirement in Great Britain on 1 January 2021 for most products. However, products that are already supported by an EU Notified Body certificate can still be supplied in Great Britain until 1 January 2022, so long as the EU and UK regulations remain unchanged from a technical perspective. Most products supplied in Great Britain will require the UKCA mark to be affixed after 1 January 2022.

How long is the UKCA marking valid?

The UKCA marking does not have any time limit – it is a declaration made at a point of time. Some certificates that are required for UKCA (as with CE Marking) may have time limits. For example, GAR type examination certificates are valid for a maximum of 10 years. This is the same under UK law.

1. General questions (cont.)

From when is CE marking no longer recognized in Great Britain?

For most products, the CE marking is accepted for goods placed on the market until the end of 2021. However for a few products (such as medical devices, for example) timelines are different and they have been granted slightly longer.

For Northern Ireland, what different combinations of CE, UKCA and UKNI marks allow products to be placed on the market in Northern Ireland?

For Northern Ireland, the UKCA mark is never acceptable. The acceptable marks are:

- “CE Mark” supported by an EU Notified Body (where required), or
- “CE UKNI” mark supported by a UK Notified Body (where required)

For further information on this topic, BSI has an informative factsheet available for download from our website

Can BSI continue to provide services to support both CE marking and UKCA marking of products?

BSI is well placed to help clients access both British and European markets, as it is both an Approved Body and a Notified Body through its operation in the UK and The Netherlands.

If UKCA marking is mandatory as of 01 January 2022, how do we deal with fabricated products which will require UKCA marking which is dependant on the marking of the raw materials used as this would mean UKCA marking needs to be available some time well in advance of 1 January 2022?

UKCA is available from 1 Jan 2021, it is mandatory from 1 Jan 2022. If component parts fall within relevant UK regulations, then it is possible for them to be UKCA marked if required.

We have placed an order for CE certified products that are produced in Europe and are due to arrive in the UK in 2022. Will those materials need to be UKCA marked for when they arrive in the UK or is CE certification alone sufficient since the order was placed in 2020?

The key date to be aware of is when the items were first placed on the market, not when the order was placed. These items will need to be UKCA marked.

Will all CE marked products need to be recertified to be UKCA marked?

All CE marked products will need to be recertified for the UK, especially if previously certified by an EU Notified Body. If your CE marking certification was from a UK Notified Body, it has ceased to be valid in the EU but is still valid in the UK during 2021. The UK Notified Body should be able to issue a UKCA without significant reassessment unless there have been changes to the designated standards or products since the original CE certificate was issued.

2. Questions about approved bodies for UKCA marking services

Do I have to work with a UK approved body for UKCA marking services?

Yes, the UK regulations require the use of a UK approved body in place of the EU notified body that was used in the EU regulations.

Which approved body number will be below the UKCA mark if the services are provided by BSI?

It is "0086" for BSI UK.

Where can information about EU notified bodies and UK approved bodies be found?

Details of EU Notified Bodies may be found in the Europa Nando site, and the UK government intends to publish its own database of Approved Bodies as soon as possible.

UK Government information on UKCA can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/uk-market-conformity-assessment-bodies>

Is there a notified body that can approve CE and UKCA marking?

Notified Bodies are appointed by the EU Member States and these only apply to CE Marking. Approved Bodies are appointed by the UK and these only apply to UKCA marking. So no single body can do this. However, some organizations may have operations in the EU and the UK, so they are able to support both regions. BSI is an Approved Body in the UK and also operates an EU Notified Body in the Netherlands

For existing CE-certificates, is UKCA certification only granted after documentation testing?

In order to issue UKCA certification, BSI is required to make a technical decision, and this cannot be done without properly reviewing the evidence of compliance. BSI will review the evidence of conformity from your current notified body as well as CE documentation and if satisfactory to meet UKCA marking requirements will issue the UKCA certification. If not satisfactory, further evidence or testing may be required. For previously issued CE certificates from the BSI UK Notified Body (0086), we will be replacing them with a UKCA certificate where necessary to support your use of the UKCA Marking.

Do drawings have to be submitted with the test reports?

Yes – there needs to be a new UK technical file, so technical drawings are an essential part of this.

What is the deadline for getting the UKCA marking for safety footwear?

Products placed on the market after 1 January 2022 must be UKCA marked. The deadline for achieving compliance will depend on many factors, such as how busy Approved Bodies are, and the length of supply chains etc.

How will annual UKCA assessment work be combined with the CE assessment work?

Only bodies that are both an Approved Body and a notified body for the relevant regulations (such as BSI) can do this. It makes commercial sense for such a body to plan a combined visit that covers both regulations, which is likely to reduce costs.

3. Questions about specific products, regulations and directives

Does an electrical device with UKCA Mark have to have a UK plug?

Not necessarily – many products are battery powered and some are designed to be connected to fixed wiring. However, most consumer products would require a UK (BS 1363) plug to be fitted, and that was the case under CE marking too, so nothing has changed.

Does BSI also provide ATEX certification?

No, sorry, we do not provide this service.

Does BSI also offer services for the MID (Measuring Instruments Directive)?

Yes we do – for the UK version of it to support UKCA marking.

Will products that are only covered by the Low Voltage and EMC Directives have to carry the UKCA marking in the future when sold into the UK or will CE continue to be recognized in this case?

Yes, electrical equipment within the scope of regulations such as the LVD or EMC directives will be covered by the UKCA marking requirements, but they do not generally require the use of an approved body (as with CE marking). CE marking will continue to be accepted in the UK for these products until the end of 2021.

Which EU directives / regulations will be affected by UKCA?

All current EU CE Marking directives / regulations are being replaced with new UK regulations requiring the UKCA marking.

Please note, the introduction of UKCA for Medical Devices and IVDs is not covered in this document as timelines are different.

Are the requirements for UKCA marking of products covered by the Machinery, EMC and Low Voltage EU regulations different to those for CE marking?

Currently, these regulations have the same technical content, but they may have different procedures. (For example in the case of UKCA marking, use of the term "Approved Body" for example).

Do medical devices require RoHS conformity assessment to UKCA within a year?

Yes, medical devices will require UKCA compliance for RoHS (and also for Radio Equipment where applicable) from 1 January 2022. The requirement for the use of the UKCA mark under the Medical Devices Regulations has been extended until 1 July 2023.

What are the changes to construction products being supplied in the UK? Specifically asphalt, concrete and aggregates.

Construction products cannot be legally supplied within market in Great Britain after 1 January 2022 unless they bear the UKCA mark and comply with the UK regulations. Of course these products may be CE marked as well. For Northern Ireland, CE Marking will remain.

3. Questions about specific products, regulations and directives (cont.)

How does self-certification work?

Some regulations do not require the intervention of an Approved Body and the manufacturer affixes the UKCA mark when they are satisfied that they fulfil the essential requirements of all relevant regulations – this is known as “self-declaration” within the industry.

What will be the requirements for rating labels on electrical products? Will we need to have CE and UKCA marking and addresses on one label or do they need to be separate?

Only the UKCA mark will be mandatory in the UK. If you dual-mark (ie: CE and UKCA) then the entity taking responsibility for the product in each market needs to be clearly and unambiguously shown on the label.

4. Questions about certificates, marking and other documentation

Will the CE certificates remain valid in the UK during the transitional period?

The transition period ended on 31 December 2020, at which point the UK fully left the EU. The UK has chosen to continue to allow CE marked products to be supplied within the UK for a further year, as long as the UK and EU regulations remain unchanged and the certificate of conformity has been issued by an EU Notified Body.

Are products or type labels allowed to carry both markings, i.e. CE and UKCA?

Yes, they are. As long as there is no confusion between the two marks.

Is the marking of the actual products compulsory or is it sufficient to put the marking on the documentation?

Marking of the product is compulsory. For a limited time, the UK will allow this to be a temporary means (a tie-on label for example).

Is it legally possible to add another page to the existing EU Declaration of Conformity, which would then confirm UK conformity?

There are no clear rules here, but it would be reasonable to add the UK declaration of conformity in this way, so long as there was no confusion between the EU and the UK declarations.

What is the name of the future British declaration of conformity?

It is called the UK declaration of conformity.

Does the declaration have to be signed by a UK company?

No, we believe the manufacturer can sign the declaration wherever they are based.

4. Questions about certificates, marking and other documentation (cont.)

Do the test reports necessarily have to be in English or are test reports in other languages also accepted?

BSI generally requires reports to be in English, but we will normally accept translated reports so long as we have an official translation of the key parts. BSI can connect you with a provider of translation services should you require these.

Does the UKCA marking also require a UK importer address to be provided?

Yes, for a product that was manufactured outside of the UK. The regulation places duties on importers to ensure products are in compliance with the regulations and to mark their name and contact details on the product or its packaging/documentation.

Do products that are to be placed on the market in the UK have to be issued with a UKCA declaration of conformity? Does a UKCA label also have to be provided on the type label?

Yes, a UK declaration of conformity is required. The UKCA mark has to be marked on the product, but not necessarily on the type label.

Are any specific actions necessary from 1 January 2021 onwards? For example, a note on the delivery papers?

If you are CE marking your product then no actions are needed on 1 January 2021, as the UK continues to accept CE-marked products until 1 January 2022. But remember that CE marking will only be accepted in Great Britain until the end of 2021.

What are the main changes required on the Declaration of Conformity (DoC) certificate compared to CE?

The UK DoC must reference the UK regulations that apply to the products and not the EU regulations - this is the main difference.

Can you confirm if the UKCA mark needs to be directly on the device, outer packaging and / or Instructions for Use (IFU)?

We believe that the mark has to be present on the product itself, but where this is impossible due to size constraints, it may be on accompanying packaging and/or literature.



5. Other questions

Are BS standards identical to the EN standards?

All EN standards should be identical – so “BS EN” standards are identical to, for example, “DIN EN” standards. “BS” standards are not likely to be identical to EN standards. Most standards used for product compliance in the UK will be BS EN standards.

Further information is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/designated-standards>

Must only BS standards be listed on the UKCA or can EN standards also be listed?

You must list the actual standards you have used. We expect BS EN standards to be commonly used.

Do we as plant manufacturers have to make sure that products used carry the UKCA marking? Or is the entire product “approved”? It will be the case that our suppliers will only bear a UKCA mark on the deadline

Products are only required to carry the UKCA mark if they are being placed onto the UK market. In most cases, this will then apply to a finished product, and not the components within it. As a UK approved body, BSI would still need to check that component parts complied with expected safety standards.

Do products that are currently placed on the UK market need to be replaced?

No.

I have products which are due to be sold in the EU and in the UK, but not until March or April 2021 as we are still working on the certification process. Can I affix the CE marking to these and place them on the market in the UK?

It's important to note that the UK “transition period” ended at the end of 2020. The UK has chosen to continue to accept CE marked products during 2021, so long as the EU and UK regulations remain unchanged and the certificate of conformity has been issued by an EU Notified Body. So new and modified products that are legally CE marked can be supplied in the UK until the end of 2021. From 1 January 2022 products placed on the market in Great Britain must have the UKCA marking affixed.

What about products that receive a modification during the transitional period? Are they still covered by CE certification until the end of 2021, even if the modification is not completed until 2021?

Products that are legally CE marked can be supplied in the UK until the end of 2021. A product could still be modified in that time and the technical file updated.

What happens to CE marked products in the supply chain after Jan 2022?

They can continue to be supplied if they have already been placed on the market within Great Britain before 31 December 2021.

What marking will be required for product placed on the market in the Isle of Man? (UKCA or CE or both?)

We understand that the Isle of Man has indicated that it will adopt the UKCA regulations, but this is a matter for their own government.

5. Other questions (cont.)

Will our test reports based on EN standards be recognized for UKCA marking or do we have to repeat all the tests according to BS standards?

It is down to individual Approved Bodies to decide what evidence of conformity they accept as part of their own procedures. Subject to the age of the test report and a technical review, BSI would always look to avoid repeating any testing that had been correctly performed by an accredited laboratory.

If I am importing private label products from China and selling on Amazon UK - how will this affect me? What do I need to do?

In this scenario you are an importer and will be liable for the compliance and safety of the products that you bring into the UK. You will need to take steps to ensure that the manufacturer has evidence of compliance and that the products you import are safe.

Under CE marking for construction products does the product have to be tested at a UK test house?

Some construction products must be certified by a UK Approved Body – they can generally be physically tested at any location the Approved Body is satisfied with. Most bodies (like BSI) use laboratories all over the world which is more convenient for clients.

When might the BS versions of standards start to differ from the EN versions, and how do we keep track of this?

The UK, via BSI, the UK National Standards Body, remains a member of CEN and remains committed to developing European standards. There is no suggestion that EN standards would be routinely replaced by conflicting BS standards. However, EN standards have always included country-specific deviations to cover particular local situations. A good example is the reference to the mandatory fitting of a UK three-pin plug in electrical safety standards.

“Company X UK” is a sister company of “Company X NV”. All products are manufactured outside the UK. What is our UK responsibility and what is “Company X NV’s” responsibility under UKCA?

In this scenario “Company X NV” is the manufacturer and “Company X UK” is probably an importer.

Can you describe the submission requirements and timing for making a UKCA application if we currently work with BSI's Notified Body in The Netherlands (2797) for CE marking related services?

If you currently have CE marking services provided by BSI in The Netherlands then the process of obtaining additional UKCA certificates will be entirely administrative as BSI has already conducted all the technical work required.

UKCA marking from BSI

As an approved body, we can provide for UKCA marking-related services for the following types of products:

- Construction products
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Gas appliances
- Boilers
- Pressure equipment
- Lifts
- Marine equipment
- Measuring instruments
- Radio equipment

Directives such as Low Voltage Directive (LVD) and Electro Magnetic Compatibility (EMC) will remain self-declaration under UKCA. We are still able to deliver services such as issuing reports to clients which might provide evidence of compliance with UK law.



CE marking from BSI

BSI continues to offer CE marking services for EU27 market access via our Netherlands notified body (2797). Our CE marking services include the following:

- Construction Products Regulation (CPR) (EU) 305/2011
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPER) (EU) 2016/425
- Gas Appliances Regulation (GAR) (EU) 2016/426
- Pressure Equipment Directive (PED) 2014/68/EU
- Medical Devices (MDR / IVDR)*

We also offer many other market access solutions enabling you to export and meet regulations.

***NOTE: CE marking services for Medical Devices and IVDs are operated through BSI Regulatory Services**



Why BSI?

We are committed to working with you to build a trusted partnership as you grow your business for the long-term. When you need to keep up-to-date and comply with the latest regulatory requirements BSI is ideally placed to support your market access needs. With 83 offices worldwide our global reach combined with our local presence means we are never far away and always on hand to work with you. What's more, our teams of trusted experts have an in-depth knowledge of standards and market access requirements that can enable you to successfully navigate the evolving regulatory landscape so your business remains resilient.



By Royal Charter

As the UK National Standards Body, a notified body for numerous EU Regulations / Directives, as well as our status as an approved body for UKCA marking, BSI is the logical choice for your product certification in a post Brexit landscape.

bsi.

Start your preparation now to make sure your business is ready for UKCA marking

Contact us today

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