



CE Marking is legally required (mandatory) for products intended for sale or placed into service in Europe. CE Marking covers an estimated 75% of all products sold today in the EU. The requirements for CE Marking apply to all manufacturers, whether located within or outside of the EU. In order to be compliant with the CE Marking requirements, a manufacturer must ensure that his products meet all applicable directives. Officially, CE has no meaning as an abbreviation, but may have originally stood for *Communauté Européenne* or *Conformité Européenne*, French for European Conformity.

The impetus behind the CE Marking of products is to allow the free movement and sales of goods within the European Union, and to eliminate country specific requirements. European Directives (or laws) were developed for CE Marking to cover different product types, and each of these contains the essential requirements that a product must meet to be sold in the EU. These directives are then supported by European standards listed in the Official Journal. Meeting them would show compliance to the essential health and safety requirements of the relevant Directive



## Compliance with the CE Marking Requirements:

CE Marking directives specify the minimum level of performance for products sold within the European Union (EU). Compliance is demonstrated with the manufacturer affixing the CE Marking to their products, indicating that their product conforms to the essential requirements of all applicable directives. In addition to the official CE Marking on the product, manufacturers must issue a Declaration of Conformity specifying which directives apply for their products, the basis on which this conformity is claimed and that the products meet these requirements.

In general, compliance for each directive typically includes both documentation and testing, and these vary by product type and application. Routes to compliance vary for each directive, and because of this and other factors, an estimated 65% of companies overtest for compliance. This need not be the case. The legal requirements for CE Marking were established to offer manufacturers various levels of flexibility in meeting the essential requirements of the directives.

**For more on Consultancy and Certification Process; Commercial Issues contact P N Mishra.**

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