

If a company makes false claims regarding its products, e.g. falsely CE marks, claims inappropriate compliance and/or product characteristics, then the penalty for the false declaration is set by each country, e.g.:

- Financial penalties and/or imprisonment
- Product recall
- Product replacement depending on intensity of fraud.

For further details & information on CE Marking please contact your local sales contact or email us on:

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Further documents on CE Marking can be downloaded at www.gepvp.org.



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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- 1. Construction Products Directive (CPD)** – the CPD was established to remove technical barriers to trade for construction products. With regard to glass products this would be achieved by the production of harmonised European technical standards by CEN TC 129 against the “Glass in Building” mandate (M135). The mandate covers flat glass, profiled glasses and glass block products.
- 2. Harmonised European Norm (hEN)** – the hENs are European standards adopted by Comité Européen de Normalisation (CEN) following a mandate issued by the EC. They are developed through an open and transparent process, built on consensus between all interested parties.
- 3. CE Mark** – the CE Mark is a symbol placed on either a product or the documentation accompanying the product. The CE Mark indicates that a product conforms to all the provisions of the CPD and hEN as required by the CPD.
- 4. Systems of Attestation of Conformity** – the Systems of Attestation of Conformity contained within the CPD, detail the level of involvement of Notified Bodies in the process of showing conformity. Dependent on the final intended use of the glass product a different System of Attestation may be applicable. From the available Systems of Attestation only 1, 3 and 4 apply to Glass in Building.
- 5. Transition Period** – the “transition period” refers to the entire 21-month period between the publication of an hEN and the mandatory date for a product on the market to conform to the CPD and be CE Marked.



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CE Marking: Questions & Answers

An introduction
to CE Marking



GEPVP, THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF
FLAT GLASS MANUFACTURERS

MEMBERS: GLAVERBEL, GUARDIAN, PILKINGTON, SAINT-GOBAIN GLASS



◆ What is CE Marking?

CE stands for Communauté Européenne. The CE Mark indicates that a product conforms to a European technical standard called a **harmonised European Norm (hEN)**.

CE Marking is **NOT**:

- A mark of geographical origin
- A mark of quality in the traditional sense
- Related to aspects outside the essential requirements (or functional performance) of the product i.e. it does not cover colour, appearance, etc.
- A licence to use the product in all known applications in EU member states. National regulations must first be met.

◆ Why do we need to CE mark?

The **Construction Products Directive (CPD)** was established to remove technical barriers to trade for construction products in Europe. With regard to glass products this would be achieved by the production of harmonised European technical standards specifically against the **Glass in Building** mandate. The mandate covers flat glass, profiled glass and glass block products.

The CE Mark together with accompanying information also enables a product to freely pass national barriers, as the CE Mark shows that the product meets the claimed characteristics and can be placed on the EU market.

◆ What are the benefits of CE Marking?

The harmonised European Norms (hENs) give a manufacturer the opportunity to prove the performance of their products on a European scale. This is different to the present situation where performance may have to be proven in each individual country and against standards with varying requirements. This provides an opportunity for cost-effective product approval.

◆ What are the harmonised European Norms (hENs)?

The harmonised European Norms (hENs) are standards adopted by the Comité Européen de Normalisation (CEN) who represent all the national standards bodies, following a mandate issued by the European Commission. They are developed through an open and transparent process, built on consensus between all interested parties.

The following procedures are contained within the hEN:

- Details on how the product conforms to the standard
- Details on product testing to be undertaken by the manufacturer where required
- Details on the factory production controls to be implemented e.g. material, production and product control.

Examples of the first hENs which were published in October 2004 are:

- EN 572-9 for basic soda lime silicate glass products
- EN 1096-4 for coated glass
- EN 12150-2 for thermally toughened soda lime silicate safety glass.

Compliance to these hENs must be in place by July 2006.

◆ When will glass for use in buildings need to be CE marked?

- CE Marking on a product can commence 9 months after the date of publication of the relevant standard.
- There is then a further 12-month period to ensure a product meets the standard requirements for its declared intended use.
- Thereafter glass for use in building relating to this standard must comply to the standard and may be CE Marked.
- The entire 21-month period between the publication of an hEN and the mandatory date for a product in the market to be CE Marked is called the **transition period**.
- All EU countries will be obliged to replace local voluntary marks, where they cover the same product areas as the CE Mark, with CE Marking by the end of the “*transition period*”.

◆ If I am only selling glass products in my country do I need to CE mark?

Only in UK, Ireland, Sweden and Finland will products manufactured in these countries not necessarily carry the CE Mark symbol on either the product or its supporting documentation. These member states have interpreted the CPD as not requiring the mandatory use of the CE Mark symbol. However, they must still show that the product characteristics comply with the relevant hEN.

◆ How will a product be shown to conform to an hEN?

When a product is placed on the market there must be a public declaration of the product's functions or intended uses.

The intended uses must be shown to comply with an hEN. This is done through the application of a **System of Attestation of Conformity** dependent on the final intended use of the glass product. The Systems of Attestation of Conformity (contained within the CPD) detail the level of involvement of Notified Bodies.

A Notified Body is an organisation selected by a member state, involved in certification and/or inspection and/or testing relative to the product and its intended use. Tests, inspections and certificates done/delivered by a “Notified Body” have to be recognised and accepted in all the countries of the EU.

◆ As a customer, what are the initial steps I need to take to CE mark my products?

Glass Processor – as a glass processor you need to develop an understanding of your processed product's performance and the appropriate standard(s), which apply to the product(s).

For example, if you are a toughener:

EN 12150-1 defines tolerances, fragmentation, mechanical strength, impact, etc.

EN 12150-2 defines the factory controls and testing you need to undertake to prepare for CE Marking.

All the supporting standards have been published and are available through your national standards body.

Merchants – any glass supplied by a glass manufacturer will have all the necessary information without the need for further validation. The basic glass products, i.e. float glass, wired glass, patterned glass, drawn sheet glass will be supplied with all appropriate information. Therefore a stock customer can rely upon the information with no need to revalidate any of the claimed parameters. However, the merchant must ensure that the glass which he cuts to size and then sells on, complies with EN 572-8.

We are prepared to answer any questions you have, and similarly, provide you with updated information on the standards and required actions as soon as the relevant information is available.

◆ What are the penalties for making a false declaration about products being CE marked?

False declaration of performance can be easily established if need be, as a manufacturer must have written evidence of tests proving a product's compliance to the respective standard. This data can be openly challenged by surveillance bodies and other glass companies.

