



## CE Marking

### OK, so what is CE?

Nineteen countries in Europe decided that in order to have “free movement of goods and to promote a common level of safety” among their countries, these goods must have a mark that indicates conformity to a “common level of safety.” This marking is the CE Mark. Keep in mind that this “common level of safety” is for these European countries and is laid out in the European Union (EU) Directives. The CE Mark is also applied to products outside the electrical industry including toys, furniture, etc. The CE Mark has nothing to do with North America or the North American safety system.

The mark consisting of the letters CE, together with an EC Declaration of Conformity, indicates conformity of the product to the essential health and safety requirements of all of the relevant EU Directives in force. The CE Mark is a marking accepted by the member countries of the European Union as a manufacturer's indication of conformance to the applicable essential requirements as outlined in the EU Directives. The marking is required for any product that is covered by an EU Directive and that is intended to be placed in the EU market. By applying the CE Mark, the manufacturer accepts sole responsibility for the full range of obligations indicated by the applicable directives for that product.

### What does a CE Mark on a product mean?

A CE Mark on a product means that the manufacturer ensures that their product meets applicable harmonized standards (e.g. an EN standard) or other “essential safety requirements” as laid out in an EU Directive. The Machinery, Electromagnetic Compatibility, and Low Voltage Directives are the directives that apply to most of our products. The CE Marking on products allows them free movement into and within the EU.

### Where is the CE lab located?

CE is not an entity, a mark of conformity to a standard, a quality mark, or a certification organization logo. It is a marking for the EU authorities. There is no laboratory, certification agency, etc. associated with CE Marking. It is simply a marking applied on products by manufacturers to indicate conformance to a common set of essential requirements for nineteen countries in Europe.

### Must a certifying body confirm conformance to a harmonized standard?

No, not for most of our products. Products may be “self certified” unless they are safety related or fall under the Potentially Explosive Atmospheres Directive.

### How does a product obtain a CE Marking?

In general, the manufacturer applies the marking and by doing so is self-declaring that the product meets the essential requirements laid out in the EU directives. In essence, this is a form of supplier's declaration of conformity (SDoC) to the directives. The process for the manufacturer to determine compliance may vary from one product to the next and may be complicated, depending on the product. There are many excellent documents available to manufacturers that discuss the specifics of this process.

## What certificates must be maintained to support the CE Mark?

The manufacturer, or its authorized representative established in the EU Community, is required to draw up in writing an EC Declaration of Conformity before placing the product in the market. The EC Declaration of Conformity must contain the following items:

- name and address of the manufacturer or its authorized representative established within the Community;
- a description of the equipment;
- reference to the harmonized standards;
- where appropriate, references to the specifications with which conformity is declared;
- identification of the signatory who has been empowered to enter into commitments on behalf of the manufacturer or its authorized representative established within the Community; and
- the last two digits of the year in which the CE Mark was affixed.

The EC Declaration of Conformity is kept with the Technical File and not sent to customers. If a customer requires that a certificate be supplied, a Manufacturer's Declaration of Conformity may be drawn up and sent. The Manufacturer's Declaration of Conformity contains essentially the same information as the EC Declaration of Conformity.

It is important to reference applicable EN standards in the EC Declaration of Conformity and Manufacturer's Declaration of Conformity because these standards are the benchmark to claim compliance with the Directives.

## What documents support the CE Mark?

Technical documentation (Technical File) must be kept for at least 10 years from the last date of manufacture of the product. The documentation must include details of the design, manufacture, and operation of the product in so far as these details are needed to demonstrate the conformity of the product with the requirements of the Directive. Accordingly, it contains:

- a general description of the product;
- conceptual design and manufacturing drawings plus diagrams of components, subassemblies, circuits, etc.;
- descriptions and explanations needed to understand the above mentioned drawings and diagrams plus the operation of the product;
- a list of the standards used, in full or in part, and a description of the solutions employed to meet the safety aspects of the directive when standards have not been applied;
- the results of design calculations, examinations conducted, etc.; and
- test reports.

Additionally, a copy of the EC Declaration of Conformity must be kept with the technical documentation. Copies of the Declaration of Conformity and the Technical File are held by the design center having responsibility for the product.

## To whom must we reveal the Technical File and when?

The Technical File and EC Declaration of Conformity may not be surrendered except when required by the European Authorities (surveillance authority). In the case of a challenge by the European Authorities, the complaint must be well documented and the manufacturer has a reasonable time to answer.

The EC Declaration of Conformity and the Technical File must be kept at the disposal of the national authorities for inspection purposes. Thus, the national market surveillance authorities may, if appropriate, require a copy of the EC Declaration of Conformity and Technical File.

**Are test reports supplied to requesters other than the European Authorities?**

No. Only the Manufacturer's Declaration of Conformity may be distributed to third parties other than the European Authorities.

**How should we respond when certifiers, such as TUV, ask for test reports?**

The test reports are part of the Technical File and should not be distributed to third parties. The intent of the CE marking is to “certify” that these reports exist. The reports are not intended for distribution out of Schneider Electric. In the event that a customer or certifier insists that we supply a test report, a generalized test report may be generated and sent to the specific requester. This generalized test report should only contain statements as to what tests were conducted and that the test results were acceptable. Detailed results (i.e. temperatures, scope traces, etc.) are proprietary information and should not be included in the generalized test report.

If there is a pressing, business reason to provide more than a generalized report, at the direction of Product Management, the customer or certifying body representative may be invited to view detailed test results at the appropriate Schneider Electric facility.

**For More Information:**

For further information on this topic, please reference:

**Visit the Schneider Electric North America Codes and Standards Electrical Shortz website:**

<http://www.schneider-electric.us/support/codes-and-standards/codes-standards-technical-library1/product-documentation>

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