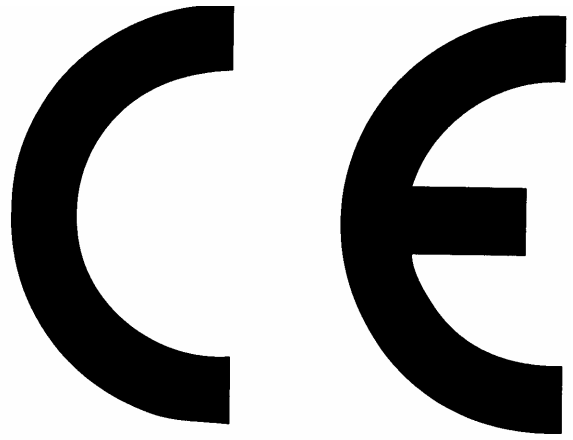
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT DIRECTIVE

(89/686/EEC)



General Information

APPENDIX : THE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT DIRECTIVE (89/686/EEC)

G.1 Background

G.1.1 The Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Directive (89/686/EEC) was adopted on 21 December 1989 and became Community Law on 1st July 1992. However, the Commission approved a transition period extended to 20th June 1995 whereby all types of PPE can continue to comply with National Regulations. After this date, all Personal Protective Equipment placed on the market in EU Member States must comply with directive 89/686/EEC and carry the CE Marking.

S.I. No. 272 of 1993 European Communities (Personal Protective Equipment) Regulations 1993 gives effect in Ireland to Directive 89/686/EEC.

G.2 Scope

G.2.1 Personal Protective Equipment covered by this directive is divided into 3 categories : -

Category I - 'Simple' design P.P.E. - e.g. gardening gloves, sun glasses.
Category II - 'Intermediate' design P.P.E. e.g. cycle helmets, high visibility clothing.
Category III - 'Complex' design P.P.E. - e.g. Firemen's helmets, respiratory Protective Equipment.

Category 0 is sometimes used as a reference to P.P.E. not covered by this Directive.

G.2.2 The following PPE is not covered by this directive : -

a. PPE designed and manufactured specifically for use by the armed forces or in the maintenance of law and order (helmets, shields, etc.).

b. PPE for self-defence (aerosol canisters, personal deterrent weapons, etc.).

c. PPE designed and manufactured for private use against :
- adverse atmospheric conditions (headgear, seasonal clothing, footwear, umbrellas, etc.)
- damp and water (dish-washing gloves, etc.),
- heat (gloves, etc.)

d. PPE intended for the protection or rescue of persons on vessels or aircraft, not worn all the time.

G. 3 CE Marking

G 3.1 The processes for obtaining the CE Mark vary from the relatively simple procedure for Category I through to increasingly more detailed procedures for Categories II and III.

G 3.1.1 Category I

In this category, the manufacturer can take responsibility for ensuring that the product complies with the P.P.E Directive and can attach the CE Marking. This Category is sometimes referred to as 'self-certification'. In this case the manufacturer does not require the services of a Notified Body.

To attach the CE Marking the Manufacturer must, according to the Directive, :-

(a) Ensure that his product complies with the Basic Health and Safety Requirements (Annex ii)
(b) Assemble technical documentation (Article 8 and annex iii)
(c) Draw up a Declaration of Production Conformity (Article 12 and Annex vi)
(d) Affix the CE Marking (Article 13 and Annex iv)

The right to use the CE Marking may be obtained via Module A according to Conformity Assessment Procedures in Community Legislation.

G 3.1.2 Category II

In this category to attach the CE Marking the Manufacturer must, according to the Directive, : -

(a) Ensure either (i) the product complies with harmonised European Standards or (ii) the product complies with verified technical specifications.

(b) Assemble technical documentation for submission to the Notified Body (Article 8 and Annex (iii)).

(c) Make application for EC Type examination to the Notified Body (Article 10).

If satisfied, the Notified Body draws up an EC Type Examination Certificate and notifies the manufacturer to this effect.

The Manufacturer then : -

(d) Draws up a Declaration of Production Conformity (Article 12 and Annex vi).

(e) Affixes CE marking (article 13 and Annex iv).

CE Marking may be authorised via Module B according to Conformity Assessment Procedures in Community Legislation.

G 3.1.3 Category III

To attach the CE Marking, the Manufacturer must, according to the Directive, carry out similar procedures (a) to (e) as for Category II, with the additional procedure for checking of PPE Manufacture (Article 11A or 11B).

In Article 11A - "EC quality control system for the final product II - the Manufacturer requests a Notified Body to ensure that the P.P.E. conforms with the EC Type Examination Certificate by checking random production samples at least once a year. The Notified Body then issues the manufacturer with a test report.

In Article 11B - "System for ensuring EC quality of production by means of monitoring" - the manufacturer has his quality control system approved by a Notified Body (A system conforming to EN 29003 would be suitable).

CE Marking may be authorised, where article 11A is used, using Modules B and C and where Article 11B is used, using Modules B and E, according to Community Assessment Procedures in Community Legislation.

G.4 Further Information

G.4.1 The main initial requirement relating to this Directive is to determine the category to which an item of PPE is designated. This information may be obtained from the General Quality Standards Department of N.S.A.I.

Flowchart : Personal Protective Equipment Directive (89/686/EEC)