

Frequently Asked Questions FAQ CE marking and KOMO quality mark



With the coming into force of the European Construction Products Regulation (CPR), the CE marking and the associated Declaration of Performance are obligatory for construction products in the European Union from 1 July 2013. Via the CE marking, all manufacturers communicate in the same manner about specific properties of their products: the 'essential requirements'. This facilitates comparisons between products and thereby fosters free trade within Member States.

There is much uncertainty about the relationship between CE marking and the KOMO quality mark. These FAQs answer the main questions that may arise.

What is CE marking?

CE marking is a European label that is placed on products. The associated Declaration of Performance (DoP) contains information about the performance of the product. By using the CE marking, a manufacturer indicates that the product characteristics as specified were determined in accordance with the relevant provisions (harmonised European standard (hEN) or European Technical Assessment).

What product information goes with a CE marking?

A CE marking is associated with a selection of product characteristics: the 'essential requirements', which relate to the fundamental requirements for building constructions. The essential requirements are described in the harmonised European standard or technical assessment applicable to the relevant product.

Who verifies the CE marking?

For most characteristics of a particular product, the manufacturer or importer themselves assess the performance of the product as referred to on the CE marking through their own measurements and tests. For product characteristics such as constructive safety or fire resistance, tests must also be conducted by independent third parties ('notified bodies') or the product must still be assessed in accordance with the Annex (ZA) of the European harmonised standard.

Is CE marking obligatory for all construction products?

No. CE marking is obligatory only for those construction products for which a harmonised European standard (hEN) has been laid down. Overall, there are about 450 harmonised standards for construction products, but almost none for (composite) elements and/or product combinations (systems).

Is CE marking obligatory for me as a manufacturer?

Yes, CE marking is obligatory for all construction products for which a harmonised European standard (hEN) has been laid down. A module with all harmonised European standards can be found on www.contactpuntbouwproducten.nl.

How do I get a CE marking for my product?

Check if the product falls within the scope of the relevant harmonised European standard. Annex ZA of the relevant hEN contains details of the duties and responsibilities of the manufacturer and, where applicable, of the verifying 'notified body'.

SKG

bezoekadres
Nieuwe Kanaal 9F
6709 PA Wageningen

postadres
Postbus 362
6700 AJ Wageningen

T 0317 - 421 720
F 0317 - 421 677
E info@skg.nl
I www.skg.nl

There is no hEN for my product, but I still want to have a CE marking. Is that possible?

Yes, it is. In those cases, a voluntary European Technical Assessment may be undertaken for your product based on a European Assessment Document. The manufacturer should approach a so-called Technical Assessment Body. Most KOMO licensees are also Technical Assessment Bodies for purposes of the Construction Products Regulation. For more information, manufacturers can contact SBK (www.bouwkwaliteit.nl).

What do I do if my product already had a CE marking before 1 July 2013?

CE marking has been obligatory in the Netherlands for many years. Products that were already being delivered with CE marking before 1 July 2013 will automatically fulfil the requirements of the CPR. A Declaration of Performance will still need to be prepared for all products. Products that have already been placed on the market (for instance products stocked with the importer or distributor) may still be delivered without a Declaration of Performance.

What is a quality certificate or quality mark?

In a quality certificate, an independent third party expert certifies that a product or service meets certain requirements as desired by market parties. This provides greater certainty to users, contractors and customers about important matters over and above the CE marking. These include threshold values and tolerances which the (local) market imposes on products, their use and on verification.

Who inspects the quality?

In addition to the quality checks undertaken by manufacturers themselves, a quality certificate always involves inspection by an independent third party (certifying body).

Why is CE marking fundamentally different from a quality certificate?

CE marking is a manufacturer's own statement, and for that reason it is certainly not a quality mark or quality certificate. This is because in a quality mark or quality certificate, an independent third party certifies that all the characteristics of the product meet certain requirements, which may also include the use of the product as a constructive component (attestation).

Why do I still need my KOMO certificate?

Quality certificates such as the KOMO certificate continue to be relevant and important to manufacturers, specifications writers, contractors, processing companies and customers, since they ensure the following aspects of quality:

- Compliance with local (building) legislation;
- Support of specific construction practices;
- Applicability in specific conditions;
- Interpretation of technical data;
- Requirements for implementation and processing;
- Product characteristics related to design, execution, aesthetics, maintenance instructions and sustainability.

Regular checks are conducted for all requirements, e.g. through inspections, verifications or audits by an independent expert body.

Questions or comments?

Please mail any questions you may have to info@skg.nl. You can find more information on: www.skg.nl.



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I www.skg.nl