

Frequently asked questions

UKCA



On 1 January 2021, the United Kingdom (UK) officially left the European Union (EU), which meant significant changes for importers and exporters looking to place products for sale within either market.

Here we list the most common questions asked around UKCA.

About UKCA

What is UKCA?

The UKCA (UK Conformity Assessed) marking is a new UK product marking used for goods being placed on the market in Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland). It covers most goods that previously required the CE marking, known as 'new approach' goods.

What products does UKCA apply to?

The UKCA marking applies to most goods previously subject to the CE marking. It also applies to aerosol products that previously required the 'reverse epsilon' marking.

The technical requirements ('essential requirements') you must meet – and the conformity assessment processes and standards that can be used to demonstrate conformity – are essentially the same as they were for the CE marking.

The circumstances in which you can use self-declaration of conformity for UKCA marking are the same for CE marking. If you were able to self-declare conformity for the CE marking, you would be able to do the same for the UKCA marking.

When did UKCA come into force?

The UKCA marking came into effect on 1 January 2021. However, to allow businesses time to adjust to the new requirements, you will still be able to use the CE marking until 1 January 2023 in most cases.

The CE marking is only valid in Great Britain for areas where GB and EU rules remain the same. If the EU changes its rules and you CE mark your product based on those new rules, you will not be able to use the CE marking to sell in Great Britain, even before 31 December 2022.

Product areas covered by UKCA marking:

Toy safety
Recreational craft and personal watercraft
Simple pressure vessels
Electromagnetic compatibility
Non-automatic weighing instruments
Measuring instruments
Lifts
ATEX
Radio equipment
Pressure equipment
Personal protective equipment
Gas appliances
Machinery
Equipment for use outdoors
Eco-design
Aerosols
Low voltage electrical equipment
Restriction of hazardous substances

NOTE: There are special rules in place for medical devices, rail interoperability, construction products and civil explosives.

In addition to the UKCA Mark, the 'Pi' mark is replaced by 'Rho' for the carriage of dangerous goods.

The MCA flag replaces the wheel mark for MED. The transition period for these marks is 1 January 2023.

Can I use UKCA marking in the European Union?

No. UKCA marking is not recognised in the EU, and products will require a CE mark.

How do I know if my product needs UKCA marking?

You only need to use the new UKCA marking before 1 January 2023 if all of the following apply.

Your product:

- is for the market in Great Britain
- is covered by legislation that requires the UKCA marking
- requires a mandatory third-party conformity assessment
- has had a UK conformity assessment body carry out a conformity assessment

If my product is already manufactured, does it need UKCA marking?

In some circumstances, no, it won't require UKCA marking. If your product was entirely manufactured, CE marked, and ready to place on the market before 1 January 2022, your product can still be sold in Great Britain with a CE mark even if covered by a certificate of conformity issued by a UK body before 1 January 2022. These goods will need to be placed on the market before 31 December 2022.

Can you define 'Placing a good on the market'?

A product is placed on the market when there is an offer or an agreement, verbal or written, to transfer the ownership, possession or any other kind of right, excluding intellectual property rights, concerning the product. It applies to each individual good.

About UKNI marking

What is the UKNI marking?

The UKNI marking is new conformity marking for products placed on the Northern Ireland (NI) market that have undergone mandatory third-party conformity assessment by a body based in the UK.

The UKNI marking is not used if you can self-declare your goods are compliant, under the relevant EU legislation that applies in NI, or if you use an EU Notified Body for any mandatory conformity assessment/testing. In these cases, you can still use the CE marking to place goods on the Northern Ireland market.

Get in touch

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