

# What is the meaning of CE

## INTRODUCTION



*In this bulletin, information is given regarding the CE marking of plastics piping systems and about possible confusion that could occur during its introduction and implementation.*

*Your particular attention is requested on the consequences of marking the products and the transition procedure during which CE marking is allowed but not yet obligatory. Your national experts are well aware of the exact time frame for a particular product or product family.*

# marking for Plastics Piping Systems?

## BACKGROUND OF CE MARKING

The European Plastic Pipes and Fittings industry and the users of its products are now confronted with open markets and the free trade of goods and services throughout Europe. As a consequence, a manufacturer of building products, covered by the Construction Product Directive (CPD), is in the near future obliged to mark these products with the CE marking. As soon as harmonised European Standards are published, the products can be marked with the CE marking and after a transition time of 24 months the products must be CE marked. You will be informed about exact time frames, as soon as these are fixed.

*Note: : CE marking is not legally required in the UK, Ireland, Sweden, Finland and Switzerland.*

## CE MARKING ON THE BASIS OF HARMONISED EUROPEAN STANDARDS (HEN'S)

For all mentioned fields of application, a so-called harmonised European standard has been developed and will be published in the official European Journal.

These hEN's describe those properties of the product that are of importance for the essential requirements of the construction work and give the procedures how to test those properties as defined in the CPD. Building products bearing the CE marking are expected to meet the legal requirements of the CPD.

## APPLICATION AREAS

Application areas of plastics piping systems for which harmonised European Standards will soon be published are:

- Drainage and sewerage
- Soil and Waste
- Water supply, including drinking water
- Hot and Cold water installation



## ATTENTION

It is expected that some traditional materials that do not have quality marks, as in the case of plastics piping systems, will promote the CE marking possibly as a quality mark.

It is important to distinguish clearly between the new legal CE marking and the traditional quality marks.

## DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CE MARKING AND QUALITY MARKS

In summary, the differences between the CE marking and a quality mark are given below:

**CE marking** (based on harmonised EN standards)

- Is legally required, so mandatory from the agreed date.
- Shows that the product is tested to a limited set of performance characteristics.
- Does not provide any assurance for quality.

- Means that the end user must make sure that, according to the local regulator, the product is fit for its application and matches the local building regulations.
- Is generally a declaration made by the manufacturer without third party control.

**Quality marks** (e.g. based on EN product standards)

- Show that the product has the good performance for its application, as expected by the customer.
- Are based on a broad scale of characteristics and requirements.
- Is third party controlled and certified.



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# Frequently Asked Que

## HOW DOES THE CE MARKING LOOK LIKE ?



## WHICH PRODUCTS MUST BE MARKED ?

CE marking must be applied for all our pipes, fittings and ancillary products that are covered by a harmonised European Standard, the so-called hEN's.

Relevant hEN's, which are coming up soon, are for:

- Soil & Waste Discharge within the building structure.
- Non-pressure underground drainage and sewerage.
- Water and other fluids under pressure buried and above ground.
- Hot & cold water piping systems.

Other products may be harmonised through an Annex Zxx of the relevant product standard (e.g. valves).



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## FROM WHICH DATE WILL CE MARKING BECOME OBLIGATORY ?

As soon as the relevant harmonised European Standard has been published in the Official Journal of the EU, the CE marking can be applied.

As soon as the agreed transition period has passed, CE marking is mandatory.

This transition period is expected to be 24 months. (See also "background" clause).

## WHICH PRODUCTS SHALL NOT BE CE MARKED ?

Products, which are not covered by the European Construction Product Directive (CPD) or any other European Directive and products for which no harmonised European standard, harmonised Annex Zxx or European Technical Approval, exist.

## WHICH PREPARATIONS ARE NEEDED FOR CE MARKING ?

According to the hEN's, the manufacturer has to declare the mentioned properties of the product, the so-called Manufacturers Own Declaration (MOD). He must also have an adequate factory production control system as requested by the hEN's.

## WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES WHEN PRODUCTS ARE NOT CE MARKED ?

These pipes, fittings and ancillary products are not allowed to be brought on to the European market for building products as covered by the CPD.

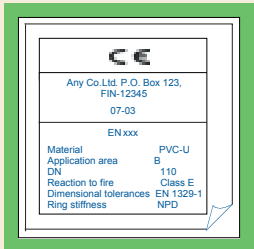
## IS IT ALLOWED TO CONTINUE WITH (NATIONAL) QUALITY MARKS NEXT TO CE MARKING ?

Yes, the existing (national) quality marks are still allowed. The co-existence of both marks according to different voluntary and harmonised EU standards are shown in the scheme.

Additional information on a CD Rom can be obtained through the National Associations or from TEPPFA.

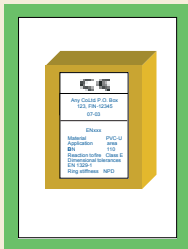


## Where to apply the CE marking • Wo das CE-Kennzeichen anbringen • Où appliquer le marquage



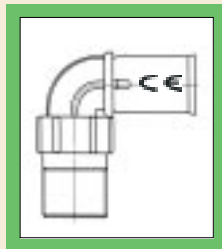
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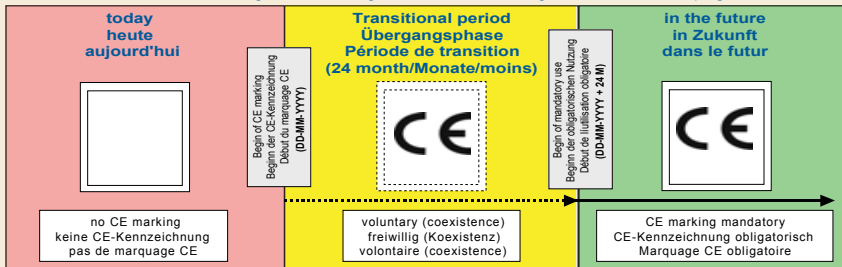
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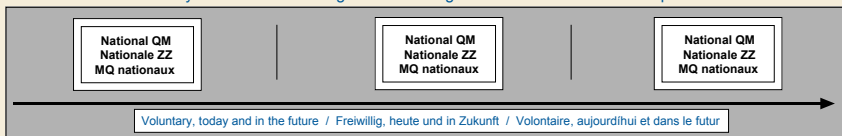
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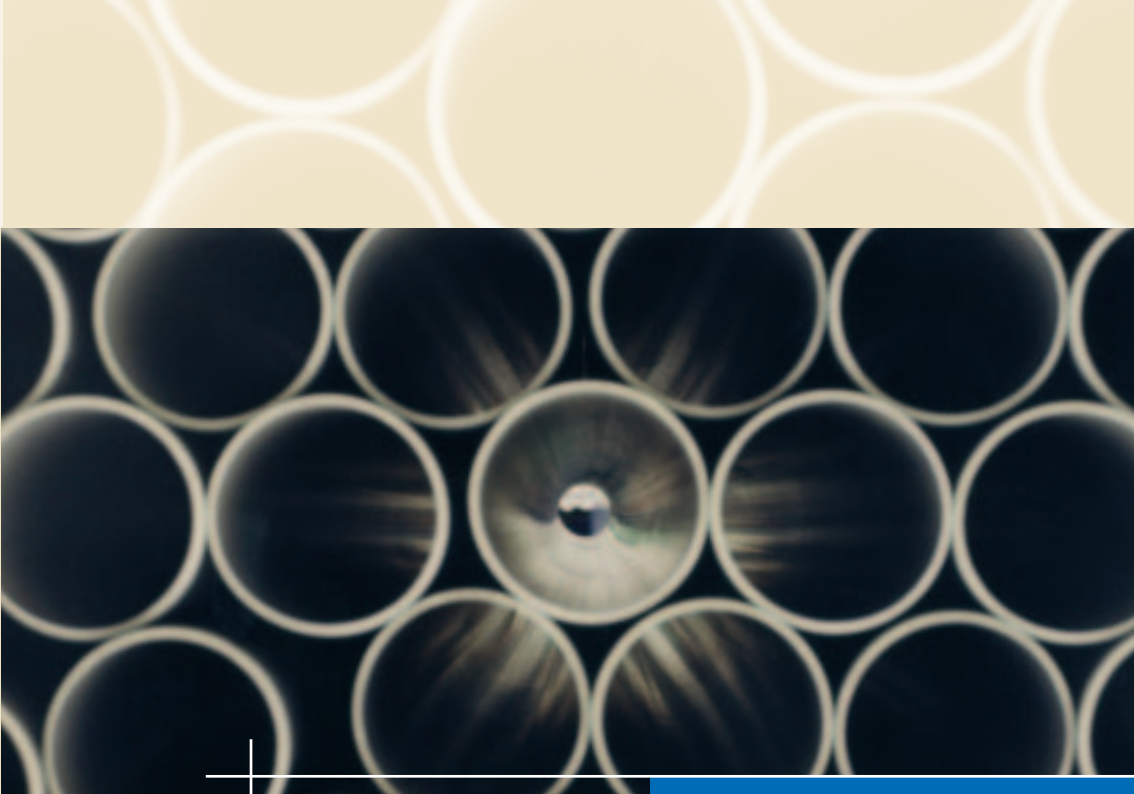
## CE marking and national Quality Marks (Time frame) CE-Kennzeichnung und nationale Zulassungszeichen (Zeitraumen) Marquage CE et les Marques de Qualité nationaux (En vue du temps)

Use of CE marking / Verwendung der CE-Kennzeichnung / Utilisation du marquage CE



Use of Quality Marks / Verwendung von Zulassungszeichen / Utilisation de Marques de Qualité





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of CE marking for  
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