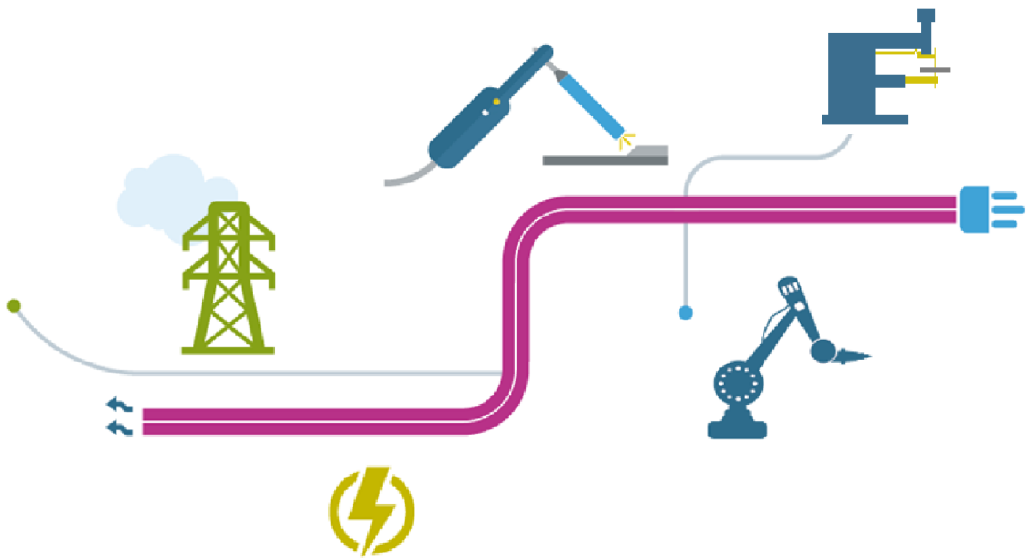


Guidance on CE Marking

For Arc Welding and Plasma Cutting Equipment



To clarify the requirements for CE marking regulations, BEAMA Welding Products Group has produced this brief information sheet so that you, as an end-user, do not get trapped in the CE 'jungle'. On the reverse you can read about the relevant Directives and below we have tried to answer some of the questions most frequently raised.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What does CE marking mean?

It means that the machine satisfies the EU requirements regarding safety and radio interference.

2. Do all machines need the CE marking?

All arc welding power sources manufactured after January 1996 must be CE marked.

3. Who is responsible for CE marking?

In the case of new welding machines the manufacturer (established inside or outside the EU) or his authorised representative (established within the EU) is responsible for CE marking and therefore is also responsible for ensuring the machine is manufactured and tested according to the stated National regulations.

4. How does the buyer know that a machine complies with the regulations?

By CE marking a machine the manufacturer is stating that he complies with all the relevant regulations. The manufacturer should also state on the rating plate which standards the machine complies with. A "Declaration of Conformity", stating the standards and identifying who is responsible for the machine, is often included in the user's manual or may be obtained on request.

5. What if I import equipment into Britain from outside Europe?

If you import equipment from outside the European Economic Area into Britain, you become responsible for that equipment. The manufacturer may CE mark but you are liable for implementing the regulations and for any false claims.

6. What if I repair a machine?

The manufacturer's original parts should be used and the repair should be carried out according to their instructions, to ensure that the machine will still meet all the relevant regulations.

If any modifications are made which in any way changes the specification or in any way breach the regulations, the responsibility will be transferred to the person who makes the modifications.

7. What if I refurbish or modify a machine which is not CE marked?

If you refurbish or modify a non - CE marked machine it must then meet the safety regulations and be CE marked if you re-supply.

8. What is the situation with second hand and hired machines?

Second hand machines may be re-sold or hired out without CE marking (see 7 above) but the person selling or hiring out the machine must ensure that they meet the safety regulations and the purchaser or hirer must comply with the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations, 1998 (PUWER).

9. Who is policing the directives?

Different aspects of the regulation are policed by the following bodies:

- Health and Safety Executive (HSE)
- Local Authority Trading Standards Departments

10. Are there any penalties for not conforming to the regulations?

If a company does not conform to the CE marking regulations, **the penalty could be a fine and/or imprisonment**, and also the policing authority can stop the use of machines that do not conform to the CE marking regulations.



BEAMA Welding Products Group

The BEAMA Welding Products group provides the UK based manufacturers and suppliers of welding equipment and consumables with a focal point of coordinated action and influence on legislative, commercial and technical matters in the home market and throughout the European Union. The group is recognised by Government, BSI,

The Welding Institute, international associations and other bodies as the consultative body for the UK welding industry. BEAMA has been an active member of the European Welding Association (EWA) for many years and BEAMA's influence on technical standards ensures products, performance and safety standards are maintained at a high level.

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Summary of the Directives

Most arc equipment products now require CE marking. CE marking shows that these products meet the relevant European Directives. There are a number of different Directives that need to be complied with before products can be legally sold in the UK and the rest of Europe.

The Low Voltage Directive (LVD) requires products to be safe. The LVD applies to power sources, wire feeders and other electrical equipment such as motor speed controllers. Power sources generally satisfy the LVD by being built to the European Standard EN 60974-1 "Arc welding equipment. Welding power sources" and Plasma cutting equipment is designed to meet EN 60974-8 "Arc welding equipment. Gas consoles for welding and plasma cutting systems". Hobby transformers have their own standard EN 60974-6. Torches and electrode holders should also comply with the LVD and be CE marked. CE marking became compulsory on 1 January 1997.

The Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Directive limits the amount of electrical interference generated by electrical equipment and requires equipment to operate without being susceptible to interference. Welding equipment is designed to meet the European Standard EN 60974-10 " Arc welding equipment. Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) requirements ". However the welding arc is inherently noisy and some problems of interference may still occur. CE marking has been required since 1 January 1996.

The Machinery Directive (MD) is applicable to machines where there is an appreciable mechanical hazard. This Directive requires mechanical hazards to be assessed and minimised. Mechanised welding equipment is required to meet the MD and CE marking has been required since 1 January 1995.

The Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Directive is the final Directive. This applies to the full range of PPE products, e.g. helmets, filters, goggles, clothing and masks. Unlike the other Directives, the PPE Directive requires third party certification to European Standards. Unfortunately, most of these standards are new and some have still not been published. This means that many PPE products have or will change over coming months and the marking will be different. For example, safety glasses will be marked according to EN166 rather than BS2092 and welding filters will no longer be marked EW or GW. CE marking has been required since 1 July 1995.

These Directives are not retrospective and do not apply to products already in use. The Directives apply only to products manufactured after the implementation date. Products that are already in the supply chain, e.g. at a distributors, at the date of implementation are also excluded. However, second hand and hire equipment falling within the scope of the MD or LVD must be safe, as defined by the relevant Directives.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

BSI Standards

389 Chiswick High Rd, London W4 4AL
Tel 020 8996 9000
Fax 020 8996 7001

TSO Publications

Mandela Way, London, SE1 5SS
0333 202 5070

HSE Books

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