



To your benefit. Worldwide.

KEYMARK.

The Key to the European Single Market. The European Mark of Conformity. What is the objective of the European Single Market? Free movement of goods and the opening of the national markets. The European Single Market was created to ensure the free movement of persons, goods, capital and services between the member states of the European Union. Step by step this idea is becoming reality, with European citizens now using unified passports and driving licenses as well as a common currency, the Euro.

How can the free movement of goods be achieved?

Technical barriers to trade free movement of goods is only possible if regulations governing products and their properties are harmonized across Europe. This will ensure that only products fulfilling the established requirements are allowed to enter the market and to cross the national borders. The European Commission has passed numerous directives in various product sectors which are subsequently adopted at a national level by the member states. In addition, technical specifications will be published as European Standards.

What does CE marking indicate?

Every manufacturer, whether based in the EU or elsewhere, is obliged to affix the CE marking to all products being subject to EU Directives. The CE marking acts as a kind of technical passport for all products entering the European Single Market. It must be affixed to the product itself or its data plate but anyhow to the packaging and the accompanying documents. The CE marking signifies to national authorities the right of a product to circulate freely, and is the means by which the manufacturer demonstrates the compliance of his products with EU Directives.



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What does KEYMARK signify?

On recommendation of the European Council, the European Standards Organizations CEN and CENELEC have launched an European and registered mark of conformity to standards, the KEYMARK. It provides proof of product conformity to European Standards and involves regular product testing and inspection of the factory production control. Only independent, competent and accredited testing laboratories, inspection and certification bodies may take part in the KEYMARK scheme. In this way the technical passport CE marking affixed by the manufacturer can be usefully supplemented by the KEYMARK. The KEYMARK will increase confidence of the member states and will encourage the harmonization of national certification schemes.

Who grants the KEYMARK?

The KEYMARK is the property of the European Committees for Standardization (CEN and CENELEC), is registered internationally and legally protected by CEN/CENELEC. Part 4 of the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations specifies the principles of KEYMARK certification. The right to grant licenses to use the KEYMARK is granted by accredited and empowered certification bodies.



What are the benefits of the KEYMARK for manufacturers?

In the EU member states, an organized and effective market monitoring is rare. For this reason voluntary product certification, documented by the KEYMARK, is an important instrument for increasing confidence. By using the KEYMARK on their products manufacturers provide a proof for fulfilling the requirements of European Standards and demonstrate a special reliability of the declared product characteristics – throughout Europe. The KEYMARK is the European mark based on the idea “tested and certified once, accepted everywhere”. A particular benefit of the KEYMARK is the detailed testing and inspection scheme for a product that can be linked to the requirements of CE marking, thus reducing overall costs.



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Precisely Right.

What are the benefits of the KEYMARK for consumers?

The KEYMARK is an important factor for users and consumers selecting a product, because both the product and its production are tested, certified and surveyed regularly by competent and neutral bodies. Consumers can be assured that these products comply with European Standards, in particular regarding health, safety and environmental considerations. The operating testing laboratories, inspection and certification bodies have to demonstrate their competence to CEN.

Who can use the KEYMARK?

Every manufacturer or importer or supplier together with the manufacturer interested in gaining the right to use the KEYMARK can apply to the certification body responsible for the product concerned. Precondition is the operations of a factory production control taking into account the elements of EN ISO 9001. To grant the right to use the KEYMARK for a particular product to the manufacturer, a special testing and inspection procedure established in the KEYMARK scheme must be carried out.

Who grants the right to use the KEYMARK?

The right to use the KEYMARK can only be granted by certification bodies which have been empowered by CEN through its national member bodies (DIN in Germany). The certification bodies as well as the testing laboratories and inspection bodies have to be accredited respectively.

How does the procedure work?

The manufacturer submits an application for the KEYMARK-certification to an empowered certification body. The required initial inspection and initial type testing shall then be carried out. The manufacturer's quality system will be checked annually and supplemented by product testing carried out at least every two years. If testing confirms that the product complies with the relevant European Standards, the certification body issues a certificate of conformity granting the non-transferable right to use the KEYMARK. The certificate must include details concerning the production site, the license holder and the certification body, enabling the product to be identified and traced back. It is valid for five years and can be renewed afterwards.

Which product categories do use the KEYMARK?

There are a number of products which have successfully introduced the KEYMARK certification into the market for example:

- Solar thermal products
- Thermal insulation products for buildings and industrial appliances
- Clay pipes
- Ceramic tiles
- Fire distinguishers etc.

Further products are under development.

Who to contact for all general questions about the KEYMARK?

Since 2015 the administrative management of the KEYMARK was outsourced to DIN CERTCO who will adjust the success story of the KEYMARK

Experts. On site.

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You're interested in our services.
Talk to us.

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