

Preparing for UKCA Compliance

**An introduction to marking needs for access
to the U.K. and EU markets**

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As 2023 approaches, businesses must prepare for the end of CE marking recognition on products sold or distributed in the U.K. Although the EU will continue to require CE marking for products with harmonized European standards, England, Scotland and Wales will require the new U.K. Conformity Assessment (UKCA) marking in 2023.

Manufacturers that need to meet the requirements are feeling the pressure of the forthcoming regulations and requirements, including the scrutiny of the Office for Product Safety and Standards, which will soon gain powers to oversee the safety of all construction products. The CE marking will continue to be the conformity assessment marking for most goods in Northern Ireland, but UKNI marking may also be necessary for manufacturers engaging in commerce in Northern Ireland.

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There are, however, some similarities between CE and UKCA markings. For example, both the technical requirements and the conformity assessment processes required to demonstrate conformity to UKCA largely match the CE marking, and the circumstances for acceptable self-declaration of conformity are the same. Like the CE Mark, the UKCA label or accompanying document displaying the marking must also remain with or attached to the product until it reaches the end user. However, it should not be assumed that all testing done for CE marking will automatically apply when seeking conformity with UKCA marking.

The best way for building products and materials manufacturers to avoid supply chain complications, ensure proper vendor arrangements and mitigate distribution and sales delays after UKCA marking is enforced is to understand common pitfalls, make necessary preparations as early as possible and find an Approved Body partner who can help you achieve the market access you need.

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Lacking a U.K. Approved Body – The UKCA marking may require the use of a U.K. recognized Approved Body. Your current provider may be a CE Notified Body with a U.K.-based partner, but this complicates the process and can potentially delay the certification with the need to have a UK based provider issue UKCA certification.



Disorganized technical files – Technical file documents can easily number into the hundreds. If these documents have not been properly maintained and organized, the process will be significantly delayed.



Relying on existing data – Conformity assessment requirements for UKCA, including testing, inspection and certification, may rely on the same standards as the CE marking; however, data that has not been provided by a UK Approved Body or is not sufficiently detailed may not necessarily be acceptable for UKCA marking.





Sampling issues – The test data used for certification may not be from samples selected off the production line by the notified body.


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Start early – Gaining UKCA marking can be straightforward, but acting now will allow more time to overcome any issues and prevent potential delays.



Verify your U.K. Approved Body – Ensure your U.K. Approved Body is in place, available and suitably accredited to allow you to affix the marking. If your U.K. Approved Body is separate from the Notified Body you use elsewhere in Europe, consider reducing complexity in your supply chain by finding a single source for European and UK certifications. For some construction products, the route to UKCA and CE marking requires the completion of a U.K. Technical Assessment via a U.K. Technical Approval Body (TAB) and an EU TAB prior to marking and using a European Assessment Document (EAD).

As both a CE Notified Body and a U.K. Approved Body, UL Solutions can help you access markets across Europe while also helping to reduce time to market. By engaging with UL Solutions as their single-source provider, our customers can earn multiple compliance credentials — including CE marking, UKCA marking and the UL-EU Mark — without the need for duplicate tests.

The UL-EU Mark for construction products and systems differentiates your brand in competitive markets. Earning third-party certification through UL Solutions means your product has been independently evaluated, complies with specified standards and is manufactured in a facility with a third-party surveillance program in place, meaning the certification extends beyond the initial evaluation. Additionally, UL Solutions localized service combines with our global reach to help your products access global markets.

UL Solutions can help you transition from the CE to UKCA marking, maintain both markings for broader market access. [Discover how we can help you meet EU, U.K. and global requirements.](#)



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