

01/11/24

Pilkington – CE Marking and the UK CA Mark

Pilkington United Kingdom Limited, part of the NSG Group, has decided to make CE Marking its sole conformity assessment approach for placing its products on the market. With effect from 29th November 2024, the UK CA Mark will not be applied to Pilkington products placed on the GB market and CE Marking will be the sole conformity assessment, making it consistent with the approaches adopted in Northern Ireland, Ireland and the rest of the EU.

This is in response to the UK government's announcement on 2nd September 2024 that it was extending the recognition of CE Marking of construction products placed on the GB market beyond 30th June 2025, one reason being that there are no UK Approved Bodies that can undertake some of the Type Testing for glass in building which is a requirement for UK CA Marking.

Further information is provided below.

History

Following the departure of the UK from the EU, the UK CA Mark was introduced in Great Britain (GB) (England, Scotland and Wales) from 1st January 2021.

Since then, we have been in a transition period during which construction products placed on the GB market can carry either CE Marking or UK CA Mark (or both).

From 30th June 2025, construction products (including glass) placed on the GB market must carry the UK CA Mark. (This was extended from the previous date of 1st January 2023.) From this date, CE Marking will no longer be permitted on the GB market.

Due to the Northern Ireland Protocol, CE Marking will continue to be accepted in Northern Ireland, but the UK CA Mark is not accepted in Northern Ireland.

Latest change

On 2nd September 2024, a statement made on behalf of the UK government by Rushanara Ali (then Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Building Safety and Homelessness) confirmed that CE Marking would continue to be recognised beyond 30th June 2025. If, at some point in the future, the government have advised that any subsequent changes to the recognition of CE marking would be subject to a minimum 2-year transitional period.

One of the reasons cited for this change was that there is currently insufficient testing and certification capacity in the UK alone to provide the volume of conformity assessment that would be required were CE Marking recognition to end.

Previous Pilkington approach

Until the aforementioned announcement, we had been applying the UK CA Mark for glass being supplied to customers in England, Scotland and Wales, but CE Marking for Northern Ireland, Ireland and the rest of the EU. This approach was built upon our acceptance of our 'historic' Type Testing from EU Notified Bodies being acceptable for the UK CA Mark.

The UK CA Mark must be based on Type Testing by a UK Approved Body. Particularly noting capacity and / or capability issues with testing in the UK, the government had previously permitted products subjected to Assessment and Verification of Constancy of Performance (AVCP) System 3 to be UK CA Marked on the basis of Type Testing by an EU Notified Body. This permission was not extended beyond the previous expiry date of CE Marking of 31st December 2022.

Market surveillance

The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) is the UK's national product regulator, within the Department for Business and Trade (DBT). Among other responsibilities, they regulate construction products on behalf of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

OPSS have advised that they will not take enforcement action against any manufacturer or supplier where the UK CA Mark has been used on construction products testing by an EU Notified Body for the purpose of CE Marking, where this testing was undertaken before 31st December 2022. This infers that they will take action against a manufacturer or supplier that has used Type Testing carried out by an EU Notified Body from this date for the purpose of UK CA Marking.

Type Testing not possible by UK Approved Body

There are no UK Approved Bodies that can undertake the following Type Testing for glass in building. Only EU Notified Bodies can carry out this testing.

Standard	Title (abbreviated)
EN 572-9	Chemical composition, thickness and light transmittance
EN 410	Light and solar properties of glass
EN 12898	Determination of emissivity for coated glass
EN 1096-2	Durability of coated glass – Class A, B and S
EN 1096-3	Durability of coated glass – Class C and D
EN 356	Resistance against manual attack – for classes of P2A and higher
EN 1063	Resistance against bullet attack
EN 1036	Durability of silvered glass for mirrors

This means that, for any new products (or improvements to existing products) introduced to the GB market for which one or more of the above Type Testing is required, it is not possible to affix the UK CA Mark. Furthermore, any improvements to products which are currently UK CA Marked on the basis of 'historic' Type Testing by an EU Notified Body would require new Type Testing, meaning the product would have to switch from being UK CA Marked to CE Marked.

Standardising on one conformity assessment helps with simplification and reduces the risk of confusion among customers.

Declaration of Performance

The Declaration of Performance (DoP) for CE Marking for the Pilkington product range can be downloaded from www.pilkington.com/ce

Further information

For more information on CE Marking and the UK CA Mark in relation to Pilkington products, please contact our Customer Contact Centre at enquiries@pilkington.com