

Position paper on the use of the CE marking

CE The CE marking on a product indicates that it is regulated by at least one harmonised EU law requiring the CE marking, and that it conforms with the legal requirements specified there and that state authorities therefore may not block its free movement and sale within in the European Economic Area. On one hand, the CE marking is mandatory if a product falls under an EU law requiring it for the product in question. On the other, misuse is forbidden, if this is not the case. For our connectors, two directives are of importance, which we will examine more closely in the following:

Low Voltage Directive 2014/35/EU

According to Article 1, the purpose of the Low Voltage Directive is to ensure the safety of “electrical equipment” if the operating voltage is within the limits specified by the Low Voltage Directive. The Commission Guidelines on the Directive clearly state in § 7 that basic components are not electrical devices, and are therefore not covered by the Directive. As can be seen in the ZVEI position paper dated 9 September 2019, the decision criteria with regard to CE according to the LVD (Low Voltage Directive) have changed following the preliminary ruling of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) through publication by the Higher Regional Court of Cologne on 5 July 2019.

Conclusion:

The LVD is applicable to all connecting cords, distributors and connectors where cable assembly is possible and which fall within the voltage range of >50V AC / 75V DC und < 1000V AC und 1500V DC.

The LVD is not applicable to panel mount connectors intended for assembly inside devices.

RoHS Directive 2011/65/EG

The German ElektroStoffVerordnung implements Directive 2011/65/EU on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances electrical and electronic equipment (known as RoHS 2, dated 8 June 2011) in German law. With the entry into force of the ElektroStoffVerordnung, the requirements of the RoHS 2 Directive also apply in Germany as of 9 May 2013.

The ElektroStoffVerordnung generally applies to finished products, so individual parts or components which do not yet constitute a device do not fall under this Directive.

However, cables marketed as a separate product must be considered to fall under RoHS 2011/65/EU as of 22 July 2019. As a result, CE marking is required by law.

Conclusion:

The RoHS Directive is applicable to all connecting cords (including those with open ends) < 250V.

The RoHS Directive is applicable to all distributors < 250V.

The RoHS Directive is not applicable to connectors where cable assembly is possible.

The necessary conformity assessment procedures are under way and will be largely complete before the end of the year. The requirements for CE marking and provision of EC Declarations of Conformity on the website are complete.

In coordination with management, we will begin to apply the CE marking to our products over the coming weeks.

Please refer any questions to our Product Compliance Team:

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