



Briefing Paper

UKCA Marking

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Combined Authority**

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What is the UKCA Marking?

The UKCA (UK Conformity Assessed) marking is the new UK product marking which came into effect on the 1 January 2021. It replaces the EU's CE marking. Due to the special arrangements set out in the Northern Ireland protocol, the UKCA marking will only accompany goods being placed on the market in Great Britain with Northern Ireland continuing to use the CE marking.

The requirements for demonstrating conformity when using the UKCA marking are similar to that of the CE marking. So, for businesses that previously self-declared conformity when using the CE marking; they will continue to be able to self-declare conformity when using the UKCA marking.

Despite being introduced at the start of the year, the government is giving businesses more time to get up to speed with the new arrangements by allowing firms to continue using the CE marking (in most cases) up until the end of the year. However, you will only be able to continue using the CE marking in areas where UK and EU rules continue to remain aligned.

Businesses will need to use the UKCA marking before January 2022 for products that require a mandatory third-party conformity assessment from a UK conformity assessment body. However, for products that were manufactured and CE marked before the end of the transition period, they will still be able to be sold on the UK market until the 31 December 2021. This is still the case even if they were covered by a certificate of conformity issued by a UK body before the 1 January this year.

The UKCA marking is not valid when placing goods on the EU market. If you sell products in to the EU, you will need to continue using the CE marking to show it conforms to EU standards. For most product types, further transitional measures are in place with businesses being able to stick the UKCA marking on to a label affixed to the product or an accompanying document until the 1 January 2023.

After the 1 January 2023, the UKCA marking will need to be attached directly to the product. This grace period will not apply to certain products such as construction product and medical devices.

Click [here](#) for further details.

How will the UKCA marking affect my business?

The new requirements will have a big impact on businesses given the additional costs involved in getting your goods approved which is another added expense for firms already reeling from the impact of the pandemic. Those businesses looking to place their products on both the UK and the EU market will need to pay for two conformity assessments, which is a duplication of testing and conformity assessment give the current alignment of product standards between the two.

Businesses are also having difficulty with the time it is taking to test their products with UK testing times taking a long time to grant approval which is an issue only being compounded by the lack of testing facilities. If these issues are not resolved then there is the risk that firms may not be able to sell their products on the UK market from next year if they are unable to get their products tested.

UK businesses that import goods from the EU will be responsible for making sure the products are safe and meet the required standards before being placed on the UK market.

How can the Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce help?

We are committed to ensuring that businesses are kept informed of upcoming changes following the end of the transition period. With not long remaining until these changes take place, we will also be running a number of webinars over the coming months, featuring guest experts, covering the key issues that matter to business.

Businesses can access further support through our international services which offer advice on all aspects of international trade and a range of accredited training courses to help businesses

Click [here](#) for further information on the Black Country Chamber of Commerce international services

Click [here](#) for further information on the Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce international trade support.

Click [here](#) for further information on the Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce International Business Hub.