

Product safety labelling

1. Important information for exhibitors on general product safety

The exhibitor is generally obliged to only show products that comply with the European requirements for making them available on the market (specific regulations such as the Market Surveillance and Product Safety Regulation, Machinery Directive, Toys Directive, Low Voltage Directive, Medical Devices Regulation, PPE Regulation) and the national legislation based on these (such as the Market Surveillance Act).

2. Relevant product safety labelling

In the European Union, there is a legal obligation that certain products must be labelled with the relevant marking (e.g. CE marking) by the manufacturer. This regulation applies to both placing on the market and displaying. The relevant European Directives / Regulations specify which products are affected. These can be found on the EU website. For a large number of products, there are specific standards that describe the product safety requirements in detail. If these technical rules are taken into account in the design and manufacture, the market surveillance authorities assume that the safety objectives of the European Directives / Regulations are met. By affixing the CE mark, the manufacturer confirms that the European product safety requirements are met.

3. Special feature of trade fairs specifically with regard to CE labelling

By way of derogation, products that have not yet been brought into conformity with the essential safety requirements may also be exhibited at trade fairs and exhibitions. In this case, however, a sign affixed to the product must indicate that the product cannot be made available on the market in the EU and the European Economic Area (EEA) until all relevant legal provisions have been complied with or that the product is only intended for export to non-EU and non-EEA countries.

The following text is suggested for such a presentation (Example of non-conformity to the Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC):

The machinery displayed is not in conformity with the Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC.

Visitors are informed that the machinery will be made available in the European Union only once it has been brought into conformity.

During presentations, precautions must be taken to protect the health and safety of persons. The market surveillance authorities are authorised to enter the exhibition stand at any time, to monitor compliance with these rules and to obtain information. In the event of a breach of these rules, the authorities are authorised to prohibit the exhibition of the product.

If you have any questions or wish to report violations, please contact:

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Further information

Regulation (EU) 2019/1020

<http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/1020/oj>

Regulation (EU) 2023/988

<http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/988/oj>