



CE Marking for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Product and regulatory scenario

Personal protective equipment, or PPE, are products designed to protect the wearer. PPE plays a vital role in safeguarding the user's health and safety in dangerous or high-risk working environments, at home and during leisure activities.

It is therefore paramount that PPE products are appropriately tested and certified. In Europe, all PPE products must be compliant with the Personal Protective Equipment Regulation (EU) 2016/425 and should display the CE marking on the product, its packaging or the information that comes along with it.

To ensure PPE products sold on the European market are safe, the European Union has established Regulation (EU) 2016/425, which enforces stringent requirements on PPE products. Within this regulation, PPE products are classified as follows:

- Category I – requiring self-declaration by manufacturers only
- Category II – requiring certification by a Notified Body in Europe
- Category III – requiring certification and ongoing monitoring by a Notified Body in Europe



In order to secure CE marking for Category II and Category III PPE, manufacturers, exporters and importers are required to conduct the required product testing at accredited laboratories and apply to a Notified Body for the CE Marking certification.

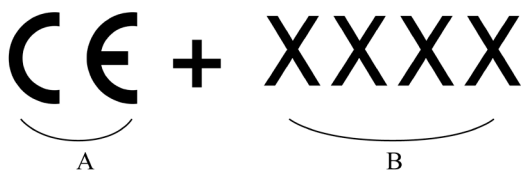
The Notified Body performs a thorough assessment of the technical files provided by the applicants and evaluates whether the products meet the concerned regulatory requirements, prior to granting the certification.

For Category III PPE, the regulation requires additional annual reviews by a Notified Body. The annual protocol will include factory audits or sample testing.

CE Marking basics

CE is a mandatory marking system indicating conformity with health, safety and environmental protection regulations and standards for products intended to be sold within the European Economic Area.

For general products, the mark simply consists of the CE logo, but for certain PPE products, the four-digit identification number of the Notified Body that has performed the assessment procedure should be displayed to the right, along with other elements as per the applicable standard, as follows:



A = In the case of category I and II PPE

A + B = Only for category III PPE

B = Four-digit identification code, within the EU, of the Notified Body

Pictograms and/or relevant additional information corresponding to the protection offered, based on the relevant category and as indicated in the concerned standard.

The CE marking affixed on the product should be visible, legible and indelible.

Eurofins notified bodies – accreditation scope

Eurofins is accredited as a Notified Body to issue CE certification for Category II and III PPE. Our certification scope covers:

Major PPE product types:

- General body protection equipment (protective clothing)
- Equipment providing non-slip protection for feet and legs (safety shoes)
- Hand and arm protection equipment (protective gloves)
- Hearing protection devices
- Equipment for hazardous atmospheres (particles, gases or vapors, biological agents)
- Respiratory protection devices

Wide range of risks:

- Substances and mixtures dangerous to health
- Harmful biological agents
- Chemical agents
- Mechanical risks
- Protection under extreme atmospheric conditions
- Protection against:
 - Heat or fire
 - Cold
 - Static electricity
 - Cuts caused by hand-operated chain saws
 - Electric shock
 - Hearing damage
 - Respiratory damage
- Protection for:
 - Motorcyclists
 - Firefighters
- Protection when:
 - Used in welding and allied processes
 - Used in potentially explosive atmospheres
 - Visual signaling of the user's presence

Eurofins, a reliable choice for testing and certification of PPE products

Our PPE team has many years of experience in PPE testing and certification. With extensive knowledge in PPE compliance and performance, our highly skilled staff can help your R&D and Quality departments identify the applicable regulatory requirements for your PPE products and define the corresponding testing protocols, while providing your teams with the necessary regulatory guidance through the process, to ensure the correct application procedure, right up to your receipt of the CE marking.

Eurofins notified bodies for PPE

Eurofins Textile & Footwear Testing Spain, S.L.

European Notified Body No. 2865

Eurofins Product Testing Italy Srl

European Notified Body No. 0477

Contact our nearest Eurofins laboratory for further information.

