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WELMEC

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European cooperation in legal metrology

WELMEC is a co-operation between the legal metrology authorities of the Member States of the European Union and EFTA.

This document is one of a number of Guides published by WELMEC to provide guidance to manufacturers of measuring instruments and to Notified Bodies responsible for conformity assessment of their products.

The Guides are purely advisory and do not themselves impose any restrictions or additional technical requirements beyond those contained in relevant EU Directives.

Alternative approaches may be acceptable, but the guidance provided in this document represents the considered view of WELMEC as to the best practice to be followed.

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Foreword

This guide is intended to provide guidance to all those concerned with the application of Measuring Instruments Directive 2004/22/EC (MID), as amended by Directive 2009/137/EC, on measuring instruments.

This guide provides a record of the continuing work of WELMEC Working Group 8 in the area of the common application of the Directive itself, when not already covered by a specific guide. In addition this guide seeks to provide information, which is specific to individual Member States.

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Each subject is followed by the number of the meeting where the decision was taken and the number of the paragraph in the minutes where the decision was recorded.

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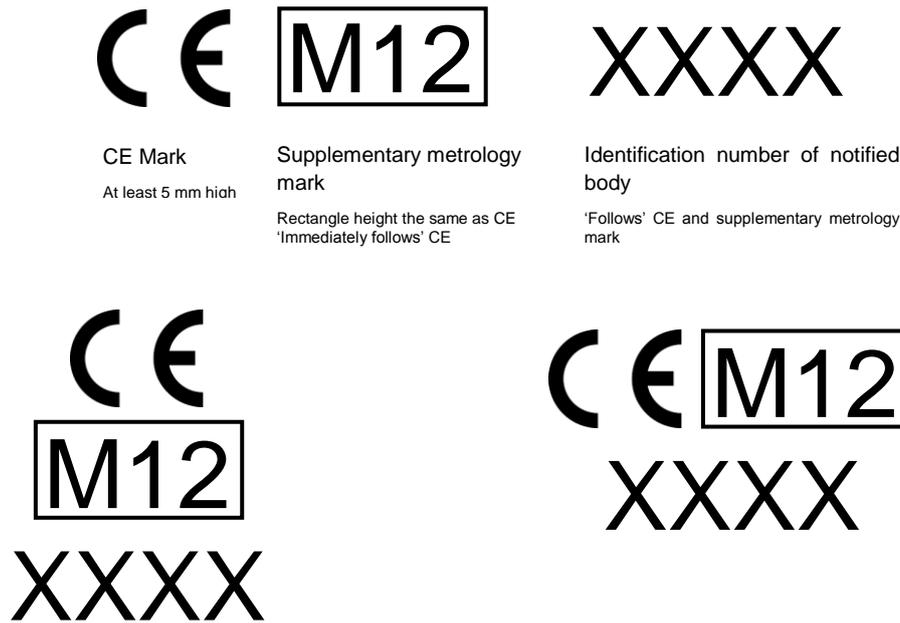
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1 Markings

1.1 Supplementary metrology marking (14th meeting, § 16)

It is accepted that the last two digits of the year of the affixing of the supplementary metrology marking, consist of a later year than the year of manufacturing, when instruments are in stock in the manufacturer's premises and will be placed on the market and/or put into use later. In some Member States, the year of affixing of the CE mark is used to define the reverification period. It is not allowed to affix a later year than the year of the placing on the market and/or putting into use of the measuring instrument.

Possible examples of Article 17 Markings required by the MID Directive



1.2 Other marking

The MID allow other marking provided that the visibility and legibility of the 'CE' marking and the supplementary metrology marking is not thereby reduced (article 7). Visibility and legibility means that the CE marking is easily accessible and legible. In exceptional circumstances due to the installation and manner of use of an instrument, this could mean that the CE marking is located on the instrument in a place accessible and if applicable, that its position is indicated clearly in the EC type examination certificate or the EC design examination certificate.

2 Sealing

Securing is foreseen by MID for components that are critical for metrological characteristics (Annex 1, Essential Requirements, article 8). Some hardware components should therefore be designed so to be secured and so that an intervention is made evident. A widely used way to secure and make evident an intervention on a hardware component is to seal it. Other solutions are acceptable provided that they are described by the notified body in the EC type examination certificate or the EC design examination certificate, when applicable.

2.1 Sealing method

The sealing method should provide for evidence of an intervention. Therefore it is recommended that physical seals bear a distinctive mark that should be clearly visible on the seal and traceable to the manufacturer.

When labels are used, they should be self-destructive upon removal. Other solutions are acceptable provided that they are described by the notified body in the EC type examination certificate or the EC design examination certificate, when applicable.

3 Measuring instruments' installation (11th meeting, § 20)

Concerning installation, even when under MID it is considered that the instrument does not need to be tested in situ, a Member State may have its own legislation concerning installation.

Installation could be distinguished from the instruments themselves provided that it does not interfere with the implementation of MID and the 'fitness for installation' of the instrument. However in such a case, if a Member State implements provisions on the competence of installers it is not under the scope of MID and the draft of regulation must be notified to the Commission and other Member States (under directive 98/34/CE). The reasons for such a regulation must be adapted to the need and justified.

4 Metrological performance

In several parts of the MID it is referred to the "metrological performance" of a measuring instrument. The metrological performance of an instrument represents its ability to comply with the essential requirements relating to the accuracy, the reproducibility, the repeatability, the discrimination and sensitivity and the permissible effect of disturbances.

5 Authorised representative (15th meeting, § 4)

A manufacturer may authorise several representatives to act on his behalf for the specified tasks described in the paragraph "Authorised representative" in annexes A to H1 (§9 in annex B), provided that the written authorizations clearly described the task assigned to each representative.