

## IMPORTANT NOTICES

### EU machinery legislation


## Important notices


### Unregulated certificates warning

Unregulated certificates, which are often called 'voluntary certificates' besides other names, are often issued for some products covered by EU harmonisation legislation by certification bodies not acting in their capacity as [notified bodies](#) under EU law. These practices are misleading since only notified bodies may issue certificates of compliance for harmonised products and only in the area for which they are notified. For example, if a body is notified to issue certificates for machinery, it should not issue certificates (voluntary or other) for non-machinery products (such as personal protective equipment – masks).

Please note that, under EU law, **voluntary or other additional certificates are not a recognised means to prove compliance**. Consequently, they have no value in the case of checks by market surveillance authorities or customs. However, an exception arises in instances where voluntary certification is outlined in specific legislation. In such cases, while the certificate is not obligatory, it must adhere to explicit requirements if chosen to be acquired.

Voluntary certificates can create the impression that the product conforms with applicable EU harmonisation legislation, although such certificates are not issued by an authorised body.

Voluntary certificates must not be confused with third-party [conformity assessment](#) , certification by notified bodies within the area for of competence for which they are notified, due to the use of terms such as 'certification' or 'independent third party'.

[CE marking](#)  can only be affixed after testing the product and performing the conformity assessment procedure prescribed by the applicable EU harmonisation legislation. It is not acceptable for certificates to bear a CE marking.

### Brexit

- [See specific sectoral guidance notices for stakeholders](#)