

CE MARKING PROGRAMME

Wave #16

November 2009 - March 2010

Introduction

A series of EU Directives setting out minimum standards of safety in the design of machinery, electrical equipment and medical devices, to name but a few, was introduced several years ago. Within Northern Ireland, these Directives are implemented through domestic legislation – with the most widely applicable being the Machinery, Low Voltage and Electro-Magnetic Compatibility (EMC) Directives.

What's involved?

For the majority of companies, CE marking is a self-certification process. A small percentage may require assessment and product testing by a Notified Body. The CE marking process involves an evaluation of the product or equipment either by risk assessment or against a relevant standard. This leads onto the development of a technical file, supply of appropriate information (e.g. installation, user, service manual), a Declaration of Conformity and affixing of the CE Mark itself.

What help is available?

An Invest NI programme takes companies through the complete process of CE marking a product, or group of products, using engineering consultants with considerable experience in this field. Managed by Queen's University's School of Education (CPD) in association with the Northern Ireland Technology Centre, the format of the programme is shown below. The cost for participating in the complete programme is £550 per company which includes sending two delegates to all seminars; however, if consultancy support is not required, then the cost for attending the seminars only is £150 per delegate per seminar.

Programme format

Stage 1: Two seminars covering the CE Marking process and the following Directives:

- Machinery Directive - **19 November 2009**.
- Low Voltage & EMC Directives - **26 November 2009**.

Stage 2: One-to-one, on-site consultancy & training support - **November 2009** to **March 2010**.

Stage 3: CE Marking final seminar & forum - **25 March 2010**.

Aimed at...

Companies manufacturing machinery, electro-mechanical or electrical/electronic equipment, including control panel manufacturers are likely to benefit. The programme is open to all Invest NI client companies; organisations not currently registered as an Invest NI client should enquire for eligibility.

Benefits

Previous participants have not only increased their knowledge of the relevant product standards, but have improved the safety and often marketability of their products. Additional confidence in their design process has tended to impress both existing and new customers.

Testimonials

"A very good programme which was most informative, full of advice, interesting and well delivered." - *Castle Hill Candles*.

"This programme offered us a great awareness of a range of product safety issues and how CE marking can lead to quality gains." - *FM Environmental Systems*.

"Increased awareness of CE marking issues and practical support in applying relevant standards. We can now take our product and use the CE mark as a selling point." - *Henry Control Systems*.

"We have greatly benefited from this programme; we can now perform proper risk analyses and overcome problems relating to machine safety." - *Trevor Reid Engineering*.

Further information

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