

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL JOINERY MANUFACTURERS REGARDING MARKINGS

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**The requirement to CE mark external timber windows and doors will become mandatory on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013.**

CE marking is a key indicator of a product's compliance with EU (European Union) legislation and enables the free movement of products within the European market. CE marking confirms that a product satisfies the legislative requirements, e.g. a harmonised level of safety, to be sold there. It means that the manufacturer has verified that the product complies with all relevant essential requirements, eg health and safety requirements, of the applicable directive(s) or, if stipulated in the directive(s), had it examined by a notified conformity assessment body.

The CE mark is specified by the EU but refers to the relevant country's regulations. Within the UK this enforces compliance with Building Regulations (Part L), which is applicable for all external windows and doors covered by the legislation. Within the UK the legislation will be enforced by Trading Standards, NOT building regulations.

**CE Marking will affect ALL joinery manufacturers. DO NOT think that because you make a one off window or door that you will not have to CE mark. This is not true.**

If an item requires a U-value then it also needs a CE mark.

Some joinery companies are still not providing u-values or the correct u-value, which relate to building regulations – Part L. This stipulates (since October 2010) that external windows need to have a u-value of 1.6 for a renovation project (or 2 in a new build) and external doors require a u-value of 1.8. If you are currently just calling the local glazing company for the u-value of the glass this is not the same as the overall u-value. The overall u-value is based on the following; type of timber, centre pane u-value and the Psi value of the spacer bars (see below). It is likely although not confirmed that u-values will be lowered in April 2014.

If a u-value is not required due to conservation exclusion then CE marking will not be required either.

Most 'Bespoke' windows WILL require a u-value as they are not truly bespoke. (Truly bespoke windows will be exempt from requiring u-value and therefore CE marking.)

Most joinery companies use standard section sizes. If the manufacturer has used the same section size before then the item is NOT bespoke and if the manufacturer uses the same section size again then subsequent windows of that section size are not bespoke either.

## How do you get CE marking?

The CE labelling is the easy part – however the following will be required:

- A Factory Production Control System
- Each window or door style will reference a Declaration of Performance (DOP)  
The DOP references the essential characteristics of the item being manufactured, that are regulated. Within the UK there are 3 minimum essential characteristics required:
  - Whole item u-value (not centre pane)
  - safety devices (This requires the correct paperwork to be fitted)
  - dangerous substances (this is not relevant for most joinery)
- The ability to calculate the full window or door u-value of the work covered in the DOP  
The full window or door u-value is NOT the same as the centre pane value and should take into consideration the timber type, section size, overall size, spacer bar and materials used. There are various methods of calculating the u-value including testing of sample windows, or calculation by a competent person in accordance with BS EN ISO 10077-1:2006 Thermal performance of windows, doors and shutters – Part 1.
- Depending on the size of business the manufacturer may have to declare the DOP with a UK notified body.

If a joinery manufacturer has 10 or more employees then they will need to ensure that the u-value is verified by a UK notified body. Notified bodies must be independent and therefore cannot be a supplier or trade association within the joinery industry.

- Include a CE mark on each window or door as a label or within the packaging of the product.

## Why bother?

**A Potential 5,000 Euro fine or imprisonment should be a good reason why to bother.**

CE marking will be enforced not by building regulations but by Trading Standards Services. If an enforcement body finds your product does not meet CE marking requirements, they will often provide you with an opportunity to ensure it is correctly marked. If you fail to comply with this, you will be obliged to take your product off the market.

You may also be liable for a 5,000 Euro fine or imprisonment.

The plastic industry will be complying with the new regulation and if timber window and door manufacturers do not comply sales opportunities and market share will be lost to the plastic industry.

The ability to comply with legislation, whether enforced or not, is a key sales tool for joinery manufacturers to compete and sell their products.

## What next?

It isn't as hard as you think... But the situation shouldn't be ignored.

There are various trade bodies who can provide help and advice in how to comply in practice.

**Want an even easier solution?** Speak to Joinerysoft about how our Joinery Management Software (JMS) provides you with a complete factory control system AND complies with both u-value and CE marking regulations. Our design, quoting and manufacturing software provides all the evidence and documentation you need for u-values, DOP and CE labels. Joinerysoft's Managing Director, Alan Turner has been in discussion with several relevant notified bodies to ensure that our JMS software complies with all latest regulations before 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013.

Existing customers who are receiving support and maintenance will receive the latest upgrade to the software **FREE OF CHARGE** before the deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013.

Provided by  **Joinerysoft**

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