

Understanding the CE Directives and the CE Mark

(European Union law) A form of [legislative act](#) addressed to the Member States. The directive binds the Member State to reach certain objectives in their national legislation.

Directive

A directive is a legal device used by the European Union to establish policies at European level. Directives have to be transported by Member States into their own legal system.

CE Mark

The CE Mark system was designed for customs officers to check if the importing products meet the safety , codes , standards of the specific directives of the European Union.

CE Mark is not quality mark such as GS or laboratory certification mark such as UL , CSA, BSI , VDE etc.

Though it is not a must for manufacturers to have their products tested and certified by a third party before they can be CE marked , we always have our products verified by a Notified Body when first introduced to the EU market.

There have been many directives since the first one 93/68/EEC introduced in mid 1993.

For our power suppliers , chargers and dc converters , we are only concerned with the following new directives .

1. LVD Low Voltage Directive 2006/95/EC (which is consolidated with the 73/23/EC for safety)
2. Electromagnetic Compatibility EMC Directive 2004/108/EC .
3. ROHS , Restriction of Hazardous Substances directive.
4. WEEE , Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment directive
5. The Energy Using Products (EUP) Directive

Remarks:

1. A new directives does not mean that all the old certificates, test reports become obsolete and appliances or equipments must be re-tested again according to the new directives.

2. Do not mix up Standards with Directives!

A new standard may require a new sets of testing parameters , methods , and compatibility levels which may be lower (more relaxed) or higher (more stringent) and sets of min. or max. required levels.

In most case , before the old standard becomes obsolete at a given date, old test data should be checked first against new standards .

If the old test data is marginally within the new limits and tolerance against new standards then the captioned equipment must be modified and a new test to be done.

For newly introduced new standard which was **not** existed before, then new test will be done accordingly.

For more information go to :

<http://www.google.com/search?sourceid=gmail&rls=gm&q=EMC%20%202004%2F108%2FEC%20%20directives%20general%20information>