



About the recreational craft sector

Around **37,200 businesses** are active in the EU's fast-growing recreational craft sector, 97% of them SMEs. These companies **employ around 272,000 people** and generate an annual revenue of €23.4 billion.

CE marking and the Recreational Craft Directive

The Recreational Craft Directive (94/25/EC, as amended by Directive 2003/44/EC) is intended to ensure a high level of safety for users, as well as regulate exhaust and noise emissions of certain types of engine-propelled recreational craft. The Directive aims to harmonise the rules governing the sale of recreational craft within the EU. The

presence of the CE marking is an indication that the craft meets the essential requirements in place to allow it to be sold anywhere in the European Economic Area (made up of the EU countries plus Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) as well as in Turkey. This also applies to products manufactured in third countries.

What does the Directive actually cover?

The design and construction provisions of the Directive apply to any boat between 2.5 m and 24 m in length that is intended for sports and leisure purposes, regardless of its means of propulsion, as well as to personal watercraft. Boats intended for commercial purposes, or solely for racing purposes, are excluded – as are canoes, kayaks, gondolas, pedalos, surfboards and sailing surfboards.

The Directive's provisions on exhaust emissions cover propulsion engines installed on recreational craft or personal watercraft. Its provisions on noise emissions cover recreational craft with sterndrive engines with integral exhausts; outboard engines and sterndrive engines with integral exhausts intended for installation on recreational craft; and personal watercraft.

Where can I find the legal texts and explanatory information?

The Directive, together with further explanatory information, can be found on the relevant page of the European Commission's Enterprise and Industry website. You might also find it useful to visit the website of the Recreational Craft Sectoral Group of Notified Bodies.

On the road to CE marking – conformity assessment

Article 8 of the Directive sets out the different conformity assessment procedures to be followed for the design and construction, exhaust emissions and noise emissions provisions.

For **ocean and offshore boats**, the option of internal production control plus tests is available if the hull is between **2.5m and 12m**. If the hull is between **12m and 24m**, either an EC-type examination by a Notified Body or a combination of other procedures, set out in the Annexes to the Directive, is required.

For **inshore boats with hulls measuring between 2.5m and 12m**, the option of internal production control without tests is available if Harmonised European Standards have been complied with. If they have not, internal production control must be accom-

panied by tests. In both cases, the EC-type examination by a Notified Body is also an option. For inshore boats with hulls measuring from 12m to 24m internal production control is not sufficient.

For boats to be used in **sheltered waters**, as well as for **personal watercraft**, all of the above options are available.

Engines subject to the provisions on **exhaust emissions** are required to undergo the EC-type examination by a Notified Body.

Finally, concerning **noise emissions**, internal production control may have to be accompanied by tests or supplementary requirements, depending on: whether tests have been conducted using the harmonised standard for noise management, or wheth-

er the Froude number and power displacement ratio method or certified reference boat data is used for assessment.

Once the conformity assessment process is complete, the CE marking must be affixed. It must appear in a **'visible, legible and indelible form'** on the craft and personal watercraft, on components and/or their packaging and on outboard engines and sterndrive engines with integral exhaust. The CE marking must be accompanied by the identification number of the relevant Notified Body.

Manufacturers are also required to sign a **Declaration of Conformity**, to keep a **technical file** containing all of the relevant data and to provide users with information about safe use and maintenance of the boat and engine.



Notified Bodies for simple pressure vessels

To find the Notified Bodies appointed by the Member States for conformity assessment of equipment covered by this Directive, manufacturers can use **NANDO** – the New Approach Notified and Designated Organisations database. Notified Bodies can be located by Directive or by country via the **NANDO** homepage.

Finding the relevant European Harmonised Standards

The first step a manufacturer should take to ensure that equipment will be compliant with the Directive is to check which **European Harmonised Standards** are applicable. A list of harmonised standards for electromagnetic compatibility can be found on the relevant page of the European Commission's Enterprise and Industry website.

Cooperating with market surveillance authorities

Manufacturers are required to work with the market surveillance authorities in each country in which the recreational craft is placed on the market. They must take all appropriate actions to eliminate risks posed by recreational craft.

Need more information?

The European Commission has launched a one-stop-shop web portal with all the information you need on CE marking: **www.ec.europa.eu/CEmarking**

Economic operators can also contact the Enterprise Europe Network at **www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu**.

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