

Certification with the safety mark

Certification of electrical equipment provides proof of product safety | The voluntary Swiss safety mark from the certification body of the Federal Inspectorate for Heavy Current Installations ESTI can provide proof that products meet the requirements of the Ordinance on Electrical Low Voltage Equipment (NEV; SR 734.26) and the Swiss Product Safety Act (PrSG; SR 930.11). This creates trust in the trade and among consumers. The test on which the safety mark is based takes account of internationally harmonised standards as well as national requirements and European directives. The safety mark reduces the likelihood of liability risks and provides economic operators with proof of the safety of their certified products on the Swiss market.

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In Switzerland, low voltage equipment must meet the basic requirements as per Art. 5 of the Ordinance on Electrical Low Voltage Equipment (NEV; SR 734.26) so as to allow them to be made available on the market. These requirements are similar to those stipulated by the EU's Low Voltage Directive 2014/35/EU¹⁾. Insofar as possible, internationally harmonised electrotechnical standards that specify the basic requirements are designated for this purpose. National deviations and rules are also in force.

Economic operators (manufacturers, authorised representatives, importers and distributors) are consequently subject to obligations and they must be able to provide proof that their products meet the basic requirements at all times.

The difference between self-declaration and independent proof

Economic operators must be able to submit a declaration of conformity showing that the product meets the basic requirements. Manufacturers themselves can draw up this declaration of conformity on the basis of their own conformity assessment procedures. This is the minimum evidence permitted by law.

Manufacturers, importers or distributors may also voluntarily subject

their products to an independent procedure to prove their safety. For this purpose, they arrange for an independent accredited testing laboratory to issue test reports for their products in compliance with the applicable product standards. They then request ESTI to verify these reports as regards up-to-date status, completeness and any national deviations. The technical documentation (nameplate, identification markings, operating instructions, etc.) is then reviewed to ensure conformity. Following these steps, ESTI can certify the product in question and issue authorisation for the safety mark.

Submitting documents for certification

Product-specific documents may be submitted to ESTI via email at this address: mub.bs.info@esti.ch. ESTI will then review the documents it receives. The following documents are required for certification:

- For proof of electrical safety, the following are required: certificates of conformity or test reports from a Swiss or foreign testing laboratory accredited as per ISO/IEC 17025 regarding the safety test as per international IEC²⁾ and CENELEC³⁾ standards. In addition, the test report on Swiss deviations if necessary.

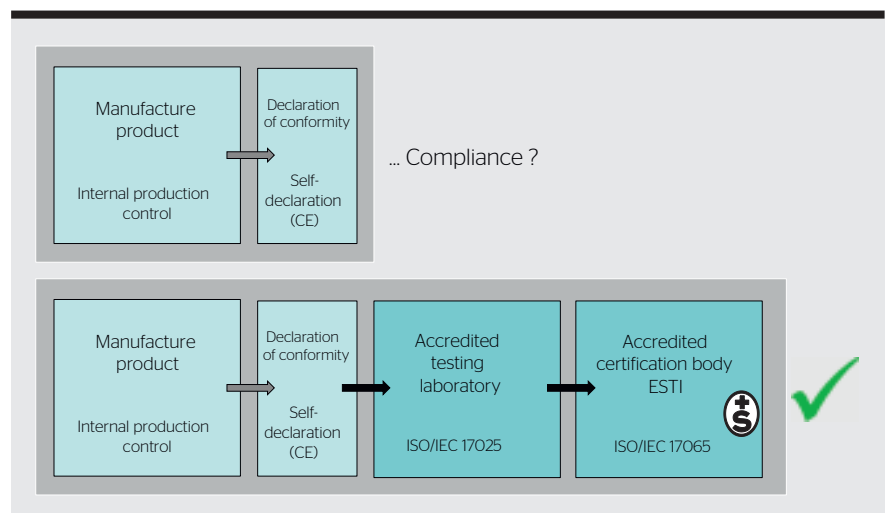


Figure 1 The difference between self-declaration and independent certification of products.



Figure 2 The Swiss safety mark.



Figure 3 Safety mark certificate.

- To prove electromagnetic compatibility, the following are required: a declaration of conformity or test reports from a Swiss or foreign testing laboratory accredited as per ISO/IEC 17025 regarding radio frequency interference, network effects (harmonics), immunity and the action of electromagnetic fields on humans as per international IEC, CENELEC and CISPR⁴⁾ standards.
- Technical documentation: Nameplate with identification markings as per the product standard; Identification of the trademark; Identification of the manufacturer and the importer, where applicable; Operating/assembly and installation instructions, safety information; Declaration of identity; Parts list; Wiring/circuit diagram, as appropriate; Information on the Swiss plug, as appropriate; Assessment of a test specimen, as appropriate.

Manufacturers, importers or distributors may themselves apply to ESTI for certification or they can mandate a Swiss or foreign accredited testing laboratory to obtain the certification.

Proof creates trust

The Swiss safety mark provides proof of the safety of the relevant products from an independent source. This creates trust in the trade and among consumers. It reduces the likelihood of liability risks and supports lasting compliance. Manufacturers and distributors can use the ESTI safety mark and certificate to advertise their products, thereby providing consumers with a valuable aid to decision-making when they make their purchases.

Public directory of safety mark authorisations

Visit www.esti.admin.ch to consult the public electronic directory of valid safety mark authorisations. Due to the situation as regards standards, authorisations are usually granted or extended for a validity period of three years.

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¹⁾ Directive 2014/35/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of electrical equipment designed for use within certain voltage limits (recast)

²⁾ International Electrotechnical Commission IEC

³⁾ Comité Européen de Normalisation Electrotechnique CENELEC

⁴⁾ Comité international spécial des perturbations radioélectriques CISPR

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