



Boiler CE marking update August 23

A recent question has arisen about CE marking of boilers and how a boiler tester knows whether this is valid or not.

CE marking

The CE mark is essentially a compliance mark applied to a product by the responsible manufacturer to say that the product complies with all relevant safety legislation (i.e. that they have conducted the necessary tests etc). There should be, accompanying the product, a signed certificate stating who (as an individual, even if working within a company) exactly is responsible for the CE mark and undertakings.

This was extended to Boilers (and pressure vessels in general) on 20 July 2016, and so any boilers commercially manufactured after this date must carry a CE mark.

Products manufactured outside Europe should have the certificate signed by a responsible person who is within the European jurisdiction to make responsibility actionable.

Applied to a boiler which carries a CE mark (i.e. has been made by a commercial provider) should have an appropriate certificate that a boiler inspector should be able to see. CE marks need not be applied on boilers that are amateur made for the builders own use.

FMES considered view of this is:

If no certifying paperwork is available for a CE marked boiler (presumably after efforts made to trace the manufacturer), it needs to be treated as an 'unknown' boiler with no warranties, and inspected accordingly. This would mean an 'appropriate' examination of design and construction as well as a twice maximum pressure 'shell' test, as for a new amateur made boiler. In this circumstance the CE mark is invalid. Note that what is 'appropriate examination' will be different according to the design and manufacture of the boiler. Reference should be made to the Boiler Test Codes and Frequently Asked Questions for guidance on this.

There is a corollary to this point: If you possess a boiler that is constructed with welded joints, you should also have and retain all certification with care as carrying out 'appropriate tests' in the case of a boiler without this assurance may be prohibitively expensive.

Brexit

In respect of Brexit, the UK government previously stated that CE marks could be used on new products until the end of December 2024, after which the UK's own mark UKCA must be used.

As of 1/08/2023 the government 'intends' that EU CE marks would remain in use indefinitely for certain classes of products. There are 18 such classes of regulation, amongst which are "Simple Pressure Vessels" (presumably the previous PSSR) and "pressure systems" (the old PER). See <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ce-marking>.

These changes were only announced around the time of writing (4 August 23) and the progress of this 'intention' will need to be checked. All of this is presumably part of the government's 'backtracking' on certain parts of Brexit in an effort to regain some measures of EU conformity to enable business to continue.

As far as boiler inspection is concerned, the present CE system was acceptable up to the end of 2024 anyway and may well now be OK after that.

Paul Naylor/Bob Walker/Peter Squire

4 August 2023