

PPE Regulation Update



Everything you Need to Know

The PPE Regulation at a Glance

The Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Directive 89/686/EEC is a key European legislation relating to occupational safety throughout Europe. The Directive is to ensure free movement of protective equipment and specify individual requirements that PPE must adhere to at the time of manufacturing and/or placement in the market. The PPE Directive hasn't really been addressed since it was published in 1989. To reflect the newer and more current technology and processes used for development and distribution of PPE, the Directive will be superseded by a new PPE Regulation (EU) 2016/425. This new Regulation will take on revisions that other Directives have received during the recent years, as well as reinstating the Directive as a Regulation. Published in the Official Journal on 31 March 2016 it will become fully effective on 21 April 2019. The PPE Regulation is a binding legislating act in which all member states of the EU must confirm to.

SCAN's Commitment to the New PPE Directives

As a responsible and reputable brand we are committed to ensuring all our safety and workwear products meet the standard safety requirements and all required PPE directives. Over the following months we will continue to review and upgrade our entire range and certification to reflect this, ensuring our customers can buy with confidence. As a manufacturer we have a responsibility to act on the following requirements;

- Supply a copy via a link or documentation, the EU declaration of conformity for said product
- Manage and monitor production to ensure compliance to the regulation
- Provide detailed data or documentation for product and their fields of use
- Provide all this in a clear, legible instruction or document that is easily understood by consumers and other end-users
- The 5-year validity date on certification has now been applied therefore we must ensure re-tests and certification are orchestrated and supplied via the EU declaration of conformity

All of this is on-going and currently being updated behind the scenes ready for its implementation on April 21st 2019.

SCAN Distributors

As a distributor, once you have the relevant information, similarly to us, you now have an obligation to honour the directive. Of which you will be required to follow some basic steps whilst selling our products to the end-user

- Before you buy and subsequently sell our products, you must ensure that the appropriate conformity procedures have been carried out by the manufacturer to meet the standards
- Make sure we have provided you with all the technical information regarding the products you are selling
- You must be in ownership of the EU declaration of conformity 10 years after selling our products

End Users

It is important for them to ensure that they are purchasing their PPE from a trusted supplier that falls in line with the new directive. If they are unsure in anyway about the product and how it conforms they too can ask to see a copy of the declaration of conformity and if necessary, the test certification.



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Categories

To put things in to perspective, PPE is divided into three categories. The new testing methods and a revised directive means that all PPE product can be accurately defined to their corresponding category based on what they protect you against. For example, products offering protection against the following risks are now moving to category III under EU)2016/425;

- Falling from heights
- Electrical shocks
- Oxygen deficiency
- Ionizing radiation
- Biological risks
- Bullet wounds and knife stabs
- Cuts by hand-held chain saws
- High-pressure jet cutting
- Drowning
- Harmful noise

This visual reference will illustrate what type of product can be seen where, based on the level of protection on offer.

Category 1 Simple PPE

PPE in this category is designed to protect users against minimal risks. These include as examples:

- Superficial mechanical injury
- Contact with water or cleaning materials of weak action
- Contact with hot surfaces not exceeding 50°C
- Damage to the eyes due to exposure to sunlight (other than during observation of the sun)
- Atmospheric conditions that are not of an extreme nature



Category 2 Intermediate PPE

Category II includes risks other than those listed in Categories I and III.

- Safety spectacles and goggles
- Industrial helmets and bump caps
- Hi visibility clothing



Category 3 Complex PPE

PPE falling under this category 'includes exclusively the risks that may cause very serious consequences such as death or irreversible damage to health'

- Substances and mixtures which are hazardous to health
- Atmospheres with oxygen deficiency
- Harmful biological agents
- Ionising radiation
- High-temperature environments the effects of which are comparable to those of an air temperature of at least 100 °C
- Low-temperature environments the effects of which are comparable to those of an air temperature of – 50 °C or less
- Falling from a height
- Electric shock and live working
- Drowning
- Cuts by hand-held chainsaws
- High-pressure jets
- Bullet wounds or knife stabs
- Harmful noise



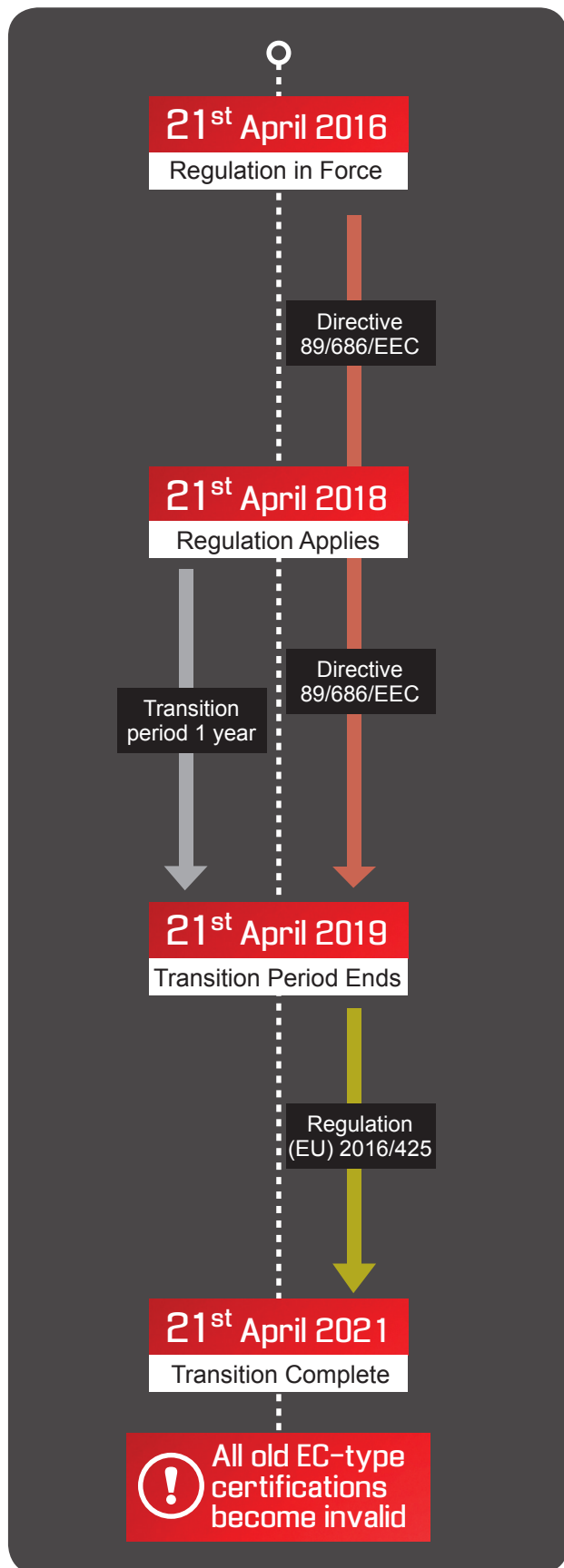
The directive is vital in determining where these products sit. If a product isn't categorised properly it could mean a poor decision is made when selecting PPE to protect the user when working in a specific environment. The update to the directive will ensure product is designated to a category effectively, offering the right protection for the user, as products will have passed more stringent testing.

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The Timescale



Helpful Supporting Links:

Please visit

www.bsigroup.com

www.hse.gov.uk

Please contact David Strong, SCAN brand manager

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if you have any additional questions or require any assistance.