



UK NI

BSI update: introducing CE UKNI marking

For businesses in Northern Ireland and for those placing product on the market in Northern Ireland

Introduction

The end of the Transition Period on 31 December 2020 following the UK's exit from the European Union on 31 January 2020 has resulted in some changes regarding market access requirements for Northern Ireland. This document sets out to explain this for those placing product on the market in Northern Ireland and what those organizations based in Northern Ireland need to consider to place product on the market in Great Britain.

From 1 January 2020, the UK Government will guarantee what is referred to as “unfettered” access for Northern Ireland's businesses (including businesses headquartered in Great Britain with operations in Northern Ireland) to the rest of the UK internal market. This will ensure that trade from Northern Ireland to Great Britain (currently Northern Ireland's largest market), continues for those businesses as it does now.

In Northern Ireland, EU conformity markings will continue to be used to show goods meet EU rules after 1 January 2021.

The CE UKNI marking is a new conformity marking for certain products placed on the market in Northern Ireland which have undergone mandatory third-party conformity assessment against the relevant EU Regulations by a body based in the UK. It is sometimes also referred to as the UK(NI) mark or the UK(NI) indication and it covers most products that CE marking applies to. The UKNI marking must not be applied on its own – it always accompanies an EU conformity marking and must be followed by the four-digit number of the UK notified body. In the case of BSI this is 0086.

No matter where you are located, if you are placing certain products on the market in Northern Ireland you will need to check if any new requirements apply as a result of the introduction of the CE UKNI marking from 1 January 2021 and if so, what steps you need to take.

At the time of writing, the information in this document is correct. However, it may be subject to change at any time, particularly should an agreement be made between the UK and the EU and if any specific agreements are made in relation to Northern Ireland.

For the latest information, visit the [Gov.uk website](#).

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What does this mean for manufacturers based in Northern Ireland?

For manufactures based in Northern Ireland and placing goods on the market in Northern Ireland or the EU27 market you may continue to affix the CE marking.

If you wish to place goods on the Great Britain market and they meet the definition of "qualifying goods" then the CE mark will be accepted. The concept of "qualifying goods" only applies to goods placed on the GB market by manufacturers based in Northern Ireland.

If you are using a UK body to carry out any mandatory third-party conformity assessment to support your CE marking you also need to apply the UKNI marking (CE UKNI). In this case the basis of your declaration for affixing the CE UKNI marking will be on a certificate issued by a UK conformity assessment body.

The CE UKNI marking will not be recognized on the EU market (neither will the UKCA marking). If you are placing goods on the EU market, you must use the CE marking on its own, without the UKNI marking. In this case the basis of your declaration for affixing the CE marking will be on a certificate issued by an EU27 notified body.

The UKCA marking which comes into force from 1 January 2021 cannot be used for goods placed on the market in Northern Ireland.

From 2021 onwards the requirements are as follows:

To access the NI market	To access the GB market
CE marking supported by an EU27 notified body or CE UKNI marking supported by a UK notified body ¹	UKCA marking supported by a UK approved body or CE marking supported by an EU27 notified body or CE UKNI marking supported by a UK notified body ¹

Notes: Product cannot be placed on the NI market based on the UKCA mark. The UKNI mark is a single mark and must be used in conjunction with another EU conformity marking (usually CE marking but others may be applicable).

¹UK notified body to issue supporting documents following EU CE marking rules.

What does this mean for manufacturers based outside Northern Ireland?

The UKCA marking cannot be used for goods placed on the Northern Ireland market. If you are currently using the services of an EU 27 notified body for CE marking you may continue to place your products on the market in Northern Ireland using the CE marking.

If you are currently using a UK body for CE marking services and they are appointed as a UK approved body then you will need to affix both CE and UKNI markings to the products.

In 2021 the requirements are as follows:

To access the NI market	To access the GB market
CE marking supported by an EU27 notified body or CE UKNI marking supported by a UK notified body ¹	UKCA marking supported by a UK approved body or CE marking supported by an EU27 notified body

After 1 January 2022 Great Britain will no longer recognize CE marking and the requirements will be as follows:

To access the NI market	To access the GB market
CE marking supported by an EU27 notified body or CE UKNI marking supported by a UK notified body ¹	UKCA marking supported by a UK approved body

Notes: This is applicable to all manufacturers based anywhere in the world other than those based in Northern Ireland and producing "qualifying goods". The "UKNI" mark is a single mark and must be used in conjunction with another EU conformity marking (usually CE marking but others may be applicable).

¹UK notified body to issue supporting documents following EU CE marking rules.

How are the marks used?

The table below summarizes how the most common marks will be used.

	UKCA marking	CE marking	CE UKNI marking
Where is this accepted?	Great Britain (England, Wales, Scotland)	EU27 countries and Northern Ireland	Only for Northern Ireland
What does the mark look like?			
What does it mean?	Compliance with all relevant UK regulations	Compliance with all relevant EU regulations	Compliance with all relevant EU regulations (but can be checked by a UK approved body)
When does this come into force?	1 January 2021	Already in force	1 January 2021
Who can offer this?	A UK appointed approved body such as BSI UK (0086)	An EU appointed notified body such as BSI The Netherlands (2797)	A UK appointed notified body such as BSI UK (0086)

Useful external documents and links

Here is a list of links that you may find of use to keep up-to-date with the information regarding the introduction of UKCA and CE UKNI.

- About the definition of “qualifying goods”: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2020/9780348212969/pdfs/ukdsi_9780348212969_en.pdf
- Using the UKNI marking from January 2021: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/using-the-ukni-marking-from-1-january-2021>
- Moving goods under the Northern Ireland Protocol – moving goods from Northern Ireland to Great Britain: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/moving-excise-goods-as-freight-under-the-northern-ireland-protocol-from-1-january-2021>

Why BSI

The good news is that, no matter where you are located, BSI can work with you to support CE UKNI, UKCA and CE marking requirements as well as many other conformity assessment schemes.

We are committed to working with you to build a trusted partnership as you grow your business for the long-term. When you need to keep up-to-date and comply with the latest regulatory requirements BSI is ideally placed to support your market access needs. As the UK National Standards Body with 83 offices worldwide, our global reach combined with our local presence means we are never far away and always on hand to work with you. What's more, our teams of trusted experts have an in-depth knowledge of standards and market access requirements that can enable you to successfully navigate the evolving regulatory landscape so your business remains resilient.

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A photograph of two men in a warehouse setting. Both are wearing white hard hats and business attire (white shirts and ties). The man on the left is holding a tablet and looking at it, while the man on the right is looking up and to the right. The background shows high industrial shelving with cardboard boxes. A large red circular graphic is overlaid on the bottom right of the image.

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**For further information on CE UKNI
and UKCA services with BSI.**

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