FAQ

DEKRA
On the safe side.

Changes for manufacturers of equipment for potentially explosive atmospheres relating to Brexit

1. What is UKCA marking?

The UKCA (UK Conformity Assessed) mark is a new UK product marking that has been introduced as a result of Brexit.
UK Government information on UKCA marking can be found here.

2. Will I need UKCA (UKEx) marking for my equipment for potentially explosive atmospheres?

The requirements for UKCA marking depend on where you market your products. You will not need UKCA marking, if you do not place products on the market in Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales). However, if you do, UKCA marking is mandatory since 1 January 2021, but there is an exception for CE marked products, for which UKCA marking is voluntary until the end of the transition period, 31 December 2021. If you only place your product on the market in Northern Ireland, you do not need UKCA marking, but you will need CE marking. To place products on all areas of the UK market after the end of the transition period, you will need both UKCA marking and CE marking. The UKCA mark will not be recognised in the EU, EEA or Northern Ireland markets, and products currently requiring a CE marking will still need a CE marking for sale in these markets.
UK Government information can be found here.

3. When is UKCA (UKEx) marking required?

UKCA marking has been introduced on 1 January, 2021, after which manufacturers can use it on a voluntary basis if their products already have CE marking. There is a transition period until 31 December, 2021, when Great Britain continues to recognise CE marking.
From 1 January, 2022, all ATEX related products need to be UKCA (UKEx) certified, products with CE marking accompanied with a UKCA Certificate can still be shipped.
From 1 January, 2023, UKCA physical marking on the products will be mandatory and CE marking will no longer be recognised.
UK Government information can be found here.

4. What is a UK Approved Body?

On 1 January, 2021, UK Approved Bodies (UKAB) replace the EU Notified Bodies in Great Britain. This means conformity assessment processes required for UKCA marking are performed by UK Approved Bodies, which need to be located in the UK.
As per 1 January, 2021, all existing EU Notified Bodies located in UK territory, will become automatically UKABs and will lose their status as EU Notified Bodies. DEKRA is in the process of becoming an UKAB, which is expected in October 2021. Our UKAB will be operated from the DEKRA location in Stokenchurch and has an established relationship with our two existing EU Notified Bodies DEKRA Certification B.V. (0344) and DEKRA Testing and Certification GmbH (0158). We will continue to work closely together to maximise the benefits of a global organisation and minimise the impact of the Brexit related changes on our customers. UK Government information can be found here.

5. I am new to certification of equipment for potentially explosive atmospheres, what certificates do I need?

The certificates you need, depend on which markets you want to place your products. UK Approved Bodies can issue UKCA (UKEx) marking certificates, but are not able to issue CE certificates. EU Notified Bodies can issue CE marking certificates, but are not be able to issue UKCA certificates. DEKRA has two EU Notified Bodies engaged in the conformity assessment of equipment intended for use in potentially explosive atmospheres (ATEX): DEKRA Certification BV (0344) and DEKRA Testing and Certification GmbH (0158). We are in the process of applying to be a UK Approved Body. Once this process is complete, DEKRA will be able to provide both UKCA and CE certificates.

6. I have CE marking for my equipment for potentially explosive atmospheres with DEKRA Certification B.V. (0344), DEKRA Testing and Certification GmbH (0158) or another EU Notified Body, what happens now?

Your certificate remains valid in the European Economic Area.
You will not need to make any changes if
a) you are not located in Great Britain, and
b) you do not wish to place products on the market in Great Britain.

If you are located in Great Britain, you will need a Responsible Person based in the EU to register your products in the EU. UK Government information on the requirements can be found here.

Labelling changes are also required. Learn more here.

7. If I have CE (ATEX) marking with DEKRA, will I need to go through the whole certification process to obtain UKCA marking for the same products?

The "future" DEKRA UKAB has an established an cooperative relationship with our two EU Notified Bodies for ATEX certification. We work together to minimise the additional activities required for UKCA marking, when the products of our customers already have CE (ATEX) marking. In these situations, the UKAB will use the audit reports and technical documentation review reports as much as possible. However, there are additional requirements for UKCA marking compared to CE marking. Where possible, we will combine the UKCA assessment with your existing CE marking schedule. In some cases, for example, if your timeline for UKCA marking does not match the CE marking schedule, we will need to perform additional activities. Your DEKRA contact will be able to provide you with a revised quote.

8. If I have CE marking with another EU Notified Body, is DEKRA able to provide UKCA marking for the same products?

EU Notified Bodies are required to share information with UKABs, when requested by the certificate holder (and UKABs should do the same with EU Notified Bodies). This information exchange will help UKABs to issue UKCA certificates without the need to repeat the entire certification process. However, to use the audit reports and technical documentation reviews from other EU Notified Bodies, they will need to meet the DEKRA requirements and therefore we review the possibility on a case-by-case basis.

It is important to remember that conformity assessment involves an audit of the manufacturer's quality management system and a review of the technical documentation related to the products to be certified for specific criteria. Therefore, if your EU Notified Body is not working cooperatively with a UKAB, additional on-site audit activities and technical documentation review activities will be required.

9. Is anything else required for placing products on the market in Great Britain?

No, if all the above-mentioned conditions are met, the products can be placed on the market in Great Britain. A local representative from the manufacturer is required.

10. What about Northern Ireland?

The Northern Ireland Protocol describes the rules for placing goods on the market in Northern Ireland. It came into force on 1 January, 2021.
Manufacturers based in Great Britain will need to appoint an EU- or Northern Ireland-based Authorised Representative.

11. Can the UK DEKRA office act as a local Responsible Person for my product?

No, DEKRA only offers certification services. There is a growing number of organisations offering the service as a Responsible Person.

12. Which edition of the standard can be used?

Only standards published in the list of designated standards may be used and listed on certificates. Learn more here.

13. Do I need a UK Quality Assessment Notification, also when I already have a EU QAN?

Yes, UK requires a separate UK QAN , this can be based on a DEKRA EU QAN.

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