**Guidance for Importing Consumer Machinery**

**Safety Requirements**

Before you place machinery for consumer use on the market, you have a legal duty to ensure the products you supply are safe.

Examples of machinery which can be used by consumers include electric handheld power tools, such as electric drills, chainsaws and hedge trimmers.

You need to ensure the requirements below have been met:

* Manufacturers, their representatives, and importers must ensure that machinery meets the **essential safety requirements** of the Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008. This can be achieved by demonstrating the machinery has been assessed against relevant safety standards. BS EN ISO 12100:2010 Safety of machinery, provides general principles for design, risk assessment and risk reduction.
* If there are other relevant standards for the particular piece of machinery, BS EN ISO 12100:2010 states you must also reference these. For example, BS EN 62841-1:2015+A11:2022: Electric motor-operated hand-held tools in relation to lawn and garden machinery.
* Manufacturers should clearly identify the relevant safety standards for their machinery at the design stage and ensure the products are assessed using the relevant conformity assessment procedure. It is your duty as an importer to check that this has been done before the goods are shipped. A list of current relevant Designated Standards for machinery can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-standards-machinery>

* Batteries within the machinery must meet the appropriate safety standards for batteries
* The charger for the product must meet the relevant safety requirements for electrical equipment. Both the battery and the charger must be compatible to ensure there is no risk of over-heating and fire

**Labelling, including UKCA/CE mark**

The product must be marked visibly and permanently with the following:

* The business name and full address of the manufacturer and if applicable the manufacturer’s authorised representative
* Designation of machinery
* Designation of series or type
* Serial number
* Year of construction
* Machinery being imported into GB must be marked with either the CE or the UKCA mark. If they are being distributed in both markets and have the relevant safety documentation, both the UKCA and CE mark can be applied. For Northern Ireland goods, the UKNI and CE marks must both be applied.

**Warnings and Instructions**

Specific warnings and instructions for the piece of machinery will be detailed in the relevant safety standard. This must cover intended use of the machinery as well as reasonably foreseeable misuse.

Instructions and warnings must be in English.

The Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008 lists the minimum information to be included in the content of all instruction manuals, including:

* The business name and full address of the manufacturer and of the manufacturer’s authorised representative
* The designation of the machinery as marked on the machinery itself
* A copy of the Declaration of Conformity
* A general description of the machinery including the drawings, diagrams, descriptions and explanations necessary for the use, maintenance and repair of the machinery and for checking its correct functioning
* A description of the intended use of the machinery
* Warnings concerning ways in which the machinery must not be used that experience has shown might occur
* Instructions on the protective measures to be taken by the user, including, where appropriate, the personal protective equipment to be provided
* The operating method to be followed in the event of accident or breakdown
* Instructions to enable adjustment and maintenance to be carried out safely
* Information detailing noise emissions

**Compliance Documentation**

As a ‘responsible person’, under the Regulations, the manufacturer or their authorised representative in the UK must show they have carried out relevant conformity assessment procedures to ensure their products are safe. They must draw up a technical file which includes documents such as risk assessments and test reports.

Once this has been completed the manufacturer or their authorised representative in the UK must issue a Declaration of Conformity. You should request and thoroughly check these documents before you purchase the goods. You must keep copies of this documentation for a period of 10 years. You must be able to provide copies on request to Market Surveillance Authorities.

**A Declaration of Conformity should contain the following:**

* Business name and full address of the manufacturer or his authorised representative
* Name and address of the person authorised to compile the technical file, who must be established in the UK
* Description and identification of the machinery including function, model, type, serial number
* Confirmation the machinery meets the relevant requirements of the Regulations, along with any other relevant Regulations such as for the battery and charger
* References to the relevant test standards used to assess the product
* If applicable the notified body ‘name and number’
* Signed on behalf of the manufacturer with a date and place of the signature

**A physical copy of the Declaration of Conformity must be supplied with the machinery.**

**When you import goods into the UK, they can be subject to product safety checks at the border. In this instance you will be requested to provide some of the documents detailed below:**

* A copy of the Declaration of Conformity issued by the manufacturer
* A copy of a relevant test report to demonstrate how the product was tested and the results of that test
* Authorities may also request copies of a detailed packing list which should show the quantity of each item including number of pieces and cartons. Also, any marks or numbers which will enable each carton to be identified and located
* This information must be supplied in English

**When sourcing your products, you should:**

* Buy from a reputable supplier and always obtain an invoice
* Make sure the product/packaging is marked with the name and address of the manufacturer
* Ask to see proof that the product is safe (a test certificate and Declaration of Conformity)

**The UK government provides further guidance on Placing manufactured goods on the market in Great Britain - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)**