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# Information on the New Construction Product Regulation

On the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013, the Construction Product Regulation (CPR) came into force over Europe. This has some notable regulatory changes for Fire Detection and Fire Alarm systems.

*"By affixing the CE marking or having such marking affixed to a construction product, manufacturers should indicate that they take responsibility for the conformity of that product with its declared performance."*

*"If the construction product ...is system 1 + or 1, as set out in Annex V, the Specific Technical Documentation shall be verified by a notified product certification body."*

#### **BS5839-1:2013**

*"BS EN 54-2 contains optional performance characteristics which are not necessarily provided in all CIE, even if third-party certificated against BS EN 54-2. It needs to be ensured that the CIE provided has appropriate facilities to enable compliance with all the recommendations of this British Standard."*

*"It is essential that compatibility between components is taken into account by the designer of the system. **BS EN 54-13** can be used to confirm system compatibility."*

## The History

In 1989, the Construction Products Directive (CPD) came into force, this said that products for the construction industry for sale within EU countries should be tested to the relevant European Norm (EN) standard.

However, there was an interpretation of the directive and in some countries (including the UK) which allowed them to not fully adopt the Directive.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013, the Construction Product Regulation (CPR) came into effect. The CPR says that no product can be sold without a CE mark and also outlines the different tests required for certain system types.

Fire systems fall into a "System 1" type and are therefore subject to mandatory 3<sup>rd</sup> party accreditation before being CE marked. This applies even if the equipment is sold in its country of origin.

## What Does This Mean?

From the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013, any system that was 3<sup>rd</sup> party accredited before this date can continue to be sold under its CPD certification.

For products introduced after the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013 (or without accreditation on this date under the CPD), the manufacturer cannot legally sell the fire detection or fire alarm equipment into the market. Equipment already sold to distribution may still be sold on the open market but no equipment may leave the factory.

Equipment may be replaced like-for-like if it doesn't have certification, and it is suggested the manufacturer documents returns and replacements.

System extensions may not use the same product purchased from the manufacturer unless it has been certified.

Marketing and technical materials for fire detection and fire alarm equipment can only include functionality that the system is certified for.



## What Should I Look Out For? Other Pitfalls

A manufacturer should be able to provide you with a CE Certificate of Conformity (CoC) and a CE Declaration of Conformity (DoC) if certified before 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013.

A manufacturer should be able to provide you with a Certificate of Constancy of Performance (CoP) and a Declaration of Performance (DoP) if certified after 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013.

Beware of the statement “Designed to conform with”; this implies that the product hasn’t been 3<sup>rd</sup> party certified and doesn’t have any meaning under the CPR.

While it is the responsibility of the manufacturer to update their documentation, but we recommend you still check the certification of products yourself before purchase.

Many of the EN54 standards have optional requirements that manufacturers can choose to meet or ignore. There is no requirement to put these options onto the DoP and therefore when specifying equipment you should ensure that it has been certified with all the options you required included. These options are as far ranging as connections to Alarm Receiving Centres (ARCs) through to triggering of alarm outputs (sounders and beacons).

If you are looking to network a number of fire alarm panels, be sure to check that the panels (CIE) have been tested and approved to the relevant EN standard (BS EN54-13). There are many panels available on market which claim to be networkable but have not been 3<sup>rd</sup> party certified against BS EN54-13.

## Highlights

- CPR came into force 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013.
- CE mark now a requirement to sell construction products within the EU, even if it is manufactured in the same country as the equipment is sold.
- Fire detection and fire alarm systems are “Type 1” and therefore require 3<sup>rd</sup> party accreditation to have a CE mark.
- Equipment without a 3<sup>rd</sup> party accreditation on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013 cannot be sold, even for system extensions.
- Marketing materials cannot mention functionality for which the fire detection and fire alarm equipment hasn’t been tested.
- Siemens equipment always meets BS and EN standards including optional parts

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The information in this document contains general descriptions of technical options available, which do not always have to be present in individual cases. The required features should therefore be specified in each individual case at the time of closing the contract.

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