



# Certification and marking for Europe

## EFTA Workshop in cooperation with the European Commission and the European Parliament.

Wednesday 11 June 2008, from 9.30-17.30, Hotel Bedford & Congress, Rue du Midi, 135-137, 1000 Brussels

Chaired by Vincent Merken – Ministry of Economic Affairs, Belgium.

The Political aim of the Workshop is to secure Free movement of safe products in Europe

The background of the Workshop is The "EFTA Study on Certification and Marks in Europe", in the context of the New Legal Framework for the marketing of products (NLF, the "Goods Package") /the CE marking system and the European Commission's consultation on a possible future European Consumer Safety Mark.

The Scope of the Workshop is the New Approach Sectors except certification and marking of construction products

The objectives of the Workshop are:

- To provide an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss, in the same room, an overall approach to **safe** products and how to ensure the **free movement** of products (competitiveness-agenda), in Europe, with a special focus on what role certification and marking do, can and should play;

- To identify a set of recommendations with a view to achieving **Free movement of safe products** in Europe with a special focus on what role certification and marking can and should play.



- 08.30**            **REGISTRATION AND COFFEE/CROISSANT**
- 09.30-10.30**    **REPORT FROM THE "EFTA STUDY ON CERTIFICATION AND MARKS IN EUROPE"**
- 09.30-09.40    Why a study? Aim of the Workshop, etc.  
*Kåre Bryn, Secretary General EFTA*
- 09.40-09.50    The present political context of the study.  
*Heinz Zourek, Director General European Commission - DG ENTR*
- 10.00-10.15    Presentation of the report from the study.  
*Chris Evans, Consultant of the study*
- 10.15-10.20    A few factual highlights drawn from the report.  
*Tore Nyvold Thomassen, EFTA Secretariat*
- 10.20-10.30    Comments/questions to consultant on report
- 10.30-11.45**    **STAKEHOLDERS TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE SELECTED TOPICS/ QUESTIONS**
- 10.30-10.40    A manufacturer's experience with multiple certification.  
*Per Christensen, TransElectro A/S*
- 10.40-10.50    What has already been achieved with regard to free movement and product safety? Which main challenges do we face today? Have increased imports from Asia created new challenges? Are all product sectors equally exposed to safety problems?  
*Adrian Harris, Orgalime*
- 10.50-11.00    What are consumer needs/expectations with regard to safe products? What is the contribution of certification and marking. Can certification and marking meet these needs/expectations alone?  
*Tania Vandenberghe, ANEC*
- 11.00-11.10    What are the distributors' needs/expectations with regard to safe products? Can certification and marking meet these needs/expectations alone?  
*Paul Skehan, ERRT*
- 11.10-11.20    Certification and marking in a SME perspective.  
*Loucas Gourtsoyannis, NORMAPME*
- 11.20-11.30    How does the certification industry respond to stakeholders' needs and expectations? How does this industry ensure that its services do not undermine the meaning of the CE marking?  
*Wilhelm Schubert, CEOC*
- 11.30-11.40    What is the role of accreditation in the context of free movement of safe products?  
*Graham Talbot, EA*
- 11.40-11.50    Regarding an overall approach to safe products, what are the "tools" available?  
*Jacques McMillan, European Commission - DG ENTR C1*
- 11.50-12.00    Summing up of main points raised.  
*Jóhannes Thorsteinsson, chairman of the EFTA study Steering Committee*
- 12.00-12.30    Questions and discussion (on report and presentations)
- 12.45-13.45**    **LUNCH**

**14.00-17.30 STAKEHOLDERS TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF THE KEY QUESTIONS BELOW**

To secure **free movement of safe products** in Europe, from a political point of view, it is required that the level of obligations put on economic operators is determined, and that an efficient market surveillance system is in place. Too lenient requirements for conformity assessment create a risk to consumer safety. Too strict requirements for conformity assessment, and/or multiple de facto requirements for certification and marking at national level, may hamper the competitiveness of manufacturers. A balance within the dual political aim, **free movement of safe products**, must be struck. With regard to the discussions on **the role of certification and marking** within this balance, it may be useful to approach the topic from different interlinked angles:

**-KEY question 1(a):** Within the context of the overall approach to **safe products**: What role do/can/should certification and marking (including schemes already operating at European level) play, including the role of Notified Bodies?

**-KEY question 1(b):** Within the context of **free movement** of products: What role do/can/should certification and marking (including schemes already operating at European level) play

- 14.00-14.15 Why did the EP request a study on the possibility of a European consumer safety mark?  
*MEP Christel Schaldemose*
- 14.15-14.30 What is the response from manufacturers to having a European consumer safety mark?  
*Paul Coebergh Van Den Braak, BUSINESSEUROPE*
- 14.30-14.45 Could the Keymark provide a contribution to product safety and/or free movement in Europe?  
*Enda McDonnell, CEN Certification Board*
- 14.45-15.00 What are the success factors for a European Mark and what are the benefits of expanding the scope of the European ENEC Mark for electrical products?  
*Mike Vint, EEPCA*
- 15.00-15.15 What is the response of the certification industry to European needs in a global perspective? How can branch offices in China contribute?  
*Ketil Stokke-Johnsen, Nemko*
- 15.15-15.30 What can ISO offer Europe?  
*Jacques Beslin, ISO CASCO*
- 15.30-15.45 The role of market surveillance? Counterfeiting of marks?  
*Jan Deconinck, PROSAFE*
- 15.45-16.05 **COFFEE**
- 16.05-17.20 **DISCUSSION ON POLICY OPTIONS**
- 16.05-16.15 Setting the directions for the following discussion.  
*Jóhannes Thorsteinnsson, chairman of the EFTA study Steering Committee*

**-KEY question 2:** Is there, to strike the right balance between 1(a) and 1(b) above, a need to rethink the role certification and marking play today, including the role of existing European marks?

**-Key question 3:** What policy conclusion may be drawn from the discussions today?

**17.20 -17.30: CLOSING ADDRESS BY THE CHAIR**



## EFTA STUDY ON CERTIFICATION AND MARKS IN EUROPE

Executive Summary of the  
final report



## THE EFTA STUDY ON CERTIFICATION AND MARKS IN EUROPE

The executive summary of the final report from the EFTA study on “Certification and Marks in Europe” has been published. Your workshop folder contains a copy of the publication. The electronic version of the Executive Summary, together with the full report, are available at

The main objective of the study was to create a better understanding of crucial parts of the market for marks in Europe. It attempts to shed light on certification leading to the affixing of marks in selected sectors, with special emphasis on what is happening at national level. Schemes operating at European level were also covered.

For more information about the study, please do not hesitate to contact Tore Nyvold Thomassen, Senior Officer at EFTA, Goods Division - [tnt@efta.in](mailto:tnt@efta.in). The main findings of the study are listed here below:

- Certification and marking in Europe is a confused market
- Manufacturers do not always affix a mark to a certified product
- Is the CE marking “winning”?
- Will the big certifiers drive down the cost of certification and marking?
- Relocation of production gives a new boost to certification and marking of consumer products
- Are consumers looking for marks?
- SMEs are hit hardest by multiple certification and marking
- Consumer organisations don’t trust marks
- Manufacturers more frequently seek voluntary certification for consumer products
- Mistrust in the CE marking drives certification
- Is there a future for European marks?
- .... or is the GS Mark winning for consumer products?
- (In)voluntary certification and marks at national level still rule for construction products