



ACI/219/15

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ACI calls on cable supply chain to note their LVD responsibilities

The Approved Cables Initiative (ACI) is questioning importer and distributor awareness of changes under the revision of the Low Voltage Directive (LVD).

The Low Voltage Directive (originally 73/23/EEC, and later 2006/95/EC) is the oldest of the New Approach Directives* (NAD) adopted by the European Union to support the Single Market. It provides common broad objectives for electrical safety regulations, and covers all electrical equipment and components designed for use with a voltage rating of between 50 and 1000 V for alternating current and between 75 and 1500 V for direct current.

Published last year, the revised LVD (2014/35/EU) is due to be fully enforced at national level in April 2016. After a UK public consultation later this year, it will be released as a revision of the Electrical Equipment Safety Regulations.

The common broad objectives for safety regulations ensure that electrical equipment conforming to pan-EU requirements will be acceptable to use in all EU countries. These common elements do not include any specific technical standards that must be met, instead relying on CENELEC technical standards to guide designers to produce safe products.

Commenting on the revised LVD, Peter Smeeth of the Approved Cables Initiative said: “The recast LVD includes details of the responsibilities of those in the supply chain and goes beyond the original directive where a high level of responsibility was placed on the manufacturers or their authorised representatives in the EU. Now importers and distributors have very clear responsibilities.

“We want to make sure that those in the cable supply chain are fully aware of what they need to be doing to ensure compliance. For instance, the directive requires the importer to check that the manufacturer has correctly fulfilled his obligations and that the importer realises that he is not merely a re-seller of products but that he has a key role to play in guaranteeing the compliance of imported products.”

Before placing a product on the market the importer must be confident that:

- the appropriate conformity assessment procedure has been carried out by the manufacturer. If he has any doubt about this, he must refrain from placing it on the market. If the product has already been placed on the market, he has to take

corrective actions. In both instances the manufacturer might need to be contacted to clarify any doubt about the conformity of the product.

- the manufacturer has drawn up the technical documentation, affixed the relevant conformity marking (e.g. CE marking), fulfilled his traceability obligations and accompanied, where relevant, the product with instructions and safety information in a language easily understood by consumers and other end-users, as determined by the Member State concerned.

A distributor must be able to identify the manufacturer, his authorised representative, the importer or person who has provided him with the product in order to assist the market surveillance authority in its efforts to obtain the EU Declaration of Conformity and the necessary parts of the technical documentation.

Before making a product available on the market, the distributor must verify the following formal requirements:

- the product bears the required conformity marking(s)(e.g. CE marking).
- the product is accompanied by the relevant documents (e.g. EU Declaration of Conformity) and by instructions and safety information in a language which can be easily understood by consumers and other end-users if required by the applicable legislation.
- the manufacturer and importer have indicated their (1) name, (2) registered trade name or trademark and the address at which they can be contacted on the product or, when not possible because of the size or physical characteristics of the products, on its packaging and/or on the accompanying documentation, and that the product bears a type, batch or serial number or other element allowing the identification of the product.

Peter Smeeth continued: “It is clear that the traceability of products, in its widest sense, is paramount in allowing all Economic Operators to fulfil their obligations with the minimum of expense or waste of resources.

“We understand UK cable manufacturers are doing, and will do, their utmost to ensure that such traceability can be fulfilled, and one way is to make sure that reasonable marking is applied to the cable surface.

“By marking the name of the manufacturer, the number of a relevant national, European or international standard, any recognised coding and a year/date of manufacture it should be possible for all Economic Operators, including the ultimate end-user, to have greater confidence as to the origin of the cable.”

The Approved Cables Initiative last year updated its cable marking guide which can be downloaded [here](#) . If you have any concerns regarding sub-standard, defective or faulty cable, the Approved Cables Initiative can be contacted on 0208 946 6978/07973 636688 or you can email info@aci.org.uk . For further information about the ACI campaign visit www.aci.org.uk

Approved Cables Initiative

Approved Cables Initiative (ACI), an industry-wide working group, is highlighting the dangers of unsafe, substandard and counterfeit cable to the cable supply industry (electric and data) and the general public.

Its work focuses upon communicating that such cable is dangerous and that there is a gap in current legislation and enforcement. It is currently pushing for changes to UK legislation to stop dangerous cable being imported and to increase the penalties for infringements.

Anyone with information or concerns about a suspected faulty or counterfeit cable should contact the ACI who will test samples and if found to be unsafe supply details to relevant industry regulators and legislators. ACI can also provide guidance where appropriate to installers.

The ACI works with supply chain representative bodies including Electric Distributors Association (EDA); Electric Contractors Association (ECA); Electric Safety Council; British Approvals Service for Cables (BASEC); British Cables Association (BCA); Energy Networks Association (ENA); Ascertiva (previously the NICEIC Group Limited), SELECT and the Joint Industry Board (JIB).

Notes to editors

*New Approach Directives (NAD) were developed over a period of about 20 years following the pioneering work that led to the Low Voltage Directive (LVD). Over the years there had been some divergence as to the basic building blocks of these NAD and a decision was taken to introduce a measure of consistency for the generic aspects. The result was the New Legislative Framework (NLF). Revised NAD incorporating the key aspects of NLF were published in 2014 and cover eight areas:

- Electrical equipment (designed for use within certain voltage limits)
- Explosives for civil uses
- Lifts
- Simple Pressure Vessels
- Measuring Instruments
- Non-automatic Weighing Instruments
- Equipment and protective systems (intended for use in potentially explosive atmospheres)
- Products that could cause electromagnetic disturbances

The first of these, the LVD, is now Directive 2014/35/EU.

ENDS

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