

Information on CE Marking of FIBC

September 2016

EFIBCA has been observing tendencies on the market to affix the CE marking on FIBCs. **CE marking of FIBC however is not permissible according to European legislation!**

What is the CE marking?

The CE marking is a mandatory conformity marking for certain products sold within the European Economic Area (EEA). By affixing the CE marking to a product, a manufacturer declares that the product meets all the legal requirements for CE marking and can be sold throughout the EEA. This also applies to products made in other countries that are sold in the EEA. CE stands for French "Conformité Européenne", meaning "European Conformity".

What products require CE marking?

Not all products must have the CE marking. It is compulsory only for most of the products covered by the New Approach Directives. **It is forbidden to affix the CE marking to other products.**

Products requiring CE marking cover, but are not limited to, electrical equipment, machines, medical devices, toys, pressure equipment, personal protective equipment, and construction products. All product groups subject to CE marking and the applicable directive(s) and harmonized standards can be checked with help of the EU Commission's guidance on CE marking for manufacturers (http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/ce-marking/manufacturers/index_en.htm).

Do FIBC require CE marking?

CE marking also applies to products covered by the Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC. Some have erroneously classified FIBCs (or parts of them) as a "lifting accessory," which falls under the scope of the Machinery Directive.

The EU Commission's Machinery Committee has drawn up a list of various categories of equipment used for lifting operations, indicating which categories are considered as lifting accessories under the Machinery Directive (see attachment). The list is not exhaustive but is intended to facilitate uniform interpretation and application of the Machinery Directive. According to that list, **both reusable and single use big bags are not considered as lifting accessories covered by the Machinery Directive.** The same applies for other containers. **CE marking of FIBC is therefore not permissible under the Machinery Directive.**

Attachment:

European Commission: Directive 2006/42/EC - Classification of equipment used for lifting loads with lifting machinery (Update June 2012), Ref. Ares(2015)1315865 – 25/03/2015.

Further sources and links:

1. Information on CE Marking: http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/ce-marking/index_en.htm
2. European Commission – Enterprise and Industry: Guide to the Application of the Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC, 2nd Edition June 2010 (http://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/mechanical-engineering/machinery/index_en.htm)