

Machines Directive - 98/37/EC**Conformity Considerations**

A simple guide to identify the obvious features which all machinery, including hand-held tools, must have as a consequence of legal provisions contained in the Machines Directive.

In reviewing the machine or hand-held power tool the following questions need to be asked and observations made

Does the equipment have	YES	NO
CE marking		
Declaration of conformity		
Marking		
Instructions (for safe use)		
Noise information		
Vibration information (hand-held tools)		

Observations

CE Marking - must, at least, be on the machine or hand-held power tool. It may also appear in the documentation accompanying the machine or hand-held power tool. It may even appear on the 'box' in which the equipment is supplied.

Declaration of Conformity — this Declaration may be a single sheet of paper or it may be included in the Instructions or other document(s) with the equipment. It identifies that responsibility is taken for the machine or hand-held power tool and what legal provision has been met by the signatory at the bottom on behalf of the company.

Marking — All machinery (including hand-held power tools) must be marked with the MINIMUM particulars in the box on the right:

Name and address of the manufacturer
or Authorised Representative

Designation of series or type
Serial number (if any)

Year of construction

CE mark



Instructions (for safe use) — all machinery (including hand-held power tools) must be accompanied by instructions for safe use. This will be in the form of a sheet or booklet in either English only or multi-lingual including English text. An exploded diagram of the equipment is totally inadequate without the instructions.

Noise information — as part of the Instructions there must be an indication of the noise emitted by the equipment. This is important since it enables the user to address the legal requirements in respect of Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations and the Control of Noise at Work Regulations.

Vibration information — as part of the Instructions all hand-held power tools must have an indication of the vibration emitted. This is important since it enables the user to address the legal requirements in respect of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations and The Control of Vibration at Work Regulations.

NOTE – The issue of machine safety is not addressed here since this requires more expertise than someone using this sheet may have to identify safety related matters. Where safety of a machine is at issue it is vital that expert advice is sought.