

EU OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

The European Union has **27 Member States** and **23 official languages**. Each Member State, when it joins the Union, stipulates which language or languages it wants to have declared official languages of the EU.

So the Union uses the languages chosen by its citizens' own national governments, not a single language or a few languages chosen by itself and which many people in the Union might not understand.

These are the 23 official EU languages – i.e. the ones used for EU business.

Bulgarian

Czech

Danish

Dutch

English

Estonian

Finnish

French

German

Greek

Hungarian

Irish



Italian

Latvian

Lithuanian

Maltese

Polish

Portuguese

Romanian

Slovak

Slovenian

Spanish

Swedish

Multi-lingual States

The following Member States have declared more than one official language;

Belgium French, Dutch, German

Cyprus Greek, English

Finland Finnish, Swedish

Ireland Irish, English

Luxemburg French, German

Malta Maltese, English

Note - Certain of the Member States with two or more official languages (Belgium, Finland) accept the use of one language **only** in areas where **only** that language is spoken.

Manufacturers are advised to check this with the national authorities concerned.

Other Member States with two official languages (Cyprus, Malta and Ireland) accept the sole use of English.

European Economic Area (EEA)

This extends the coverage of the Machines Directive to 5 non-EU countries and their languages;

Iceland Icelandic

Norway Norwegian

Switzerland French, German and Italian

Liechtenstein German

Turkey Turkish

Supplying machinery into the EU and EEA

All machinery must be accompanied by instructions in the official Community language or languages of the country in which it is placed on the market and/or put into service.