



NEW LOW VOLTAGE DIRECTIVE 2014/35/EU

In February 2014, the European Parliament and Council issued a new Low Voltage Directive aligned to the New Legislative Framework. This new Low Voltage Directive 2014/35/EU will be applicable from 20 April 2016 alongside other CE Marking directives including the EMC Directive and the ATEX Directive.

The existing Low Voltage Directive 2006/95/EC will be repealed upon implementation of Directive 2014/35/EU and hence its requirements will no longer apply after 20 April 2016. There is no transition period for the new Directive.

All manufacturers, distributors and importers must apply the new Directive from 20 April 2016 and all of their regulatory documentation, including the new EU Declaration of Conformity, must be prepared accordingly.



THE KEY CHANGES TO THE LOW VOLTAGE DIRECTIVE

There are no significant changes introduced within the new Low Voltage Directive. The main technical change is the requirement for all manufacturers to conduct and document an adequate analysis and assessment of the safety risks prior to issue of their EU Declaration of Conformity. There is also a need to sample and re-test items in production where these items are of higher risk.

The new Low Voltage Directive clarifies the obligations and responsibilities of the various economic operators. These include manufacturers, authorized representatives, distributors and importers. The new or enhanced requirements for importers include ensuring that their name and contact address is affixed to the equipment or packaging for ease of traceability.

The role of a Low Voltage Directive Notified Body has been removed from the new Directive since there is no EU Type Examination or Quality Assurance route available.

Telecommunications Terminal Equipment will no longer be covered by the R&TTE Directive after 13 June 2017. The safety of such equipment will then fall under the scope of the new Low Voltage Directive and is subject to the applicable voltage limitations of this Directive.

IMPLEMENTING THE CHANGES IN YOUR COMPANY

For all Low Voltage Directive users, your “EC Declaration of Conformity” will become an “EU Declaration of Conformity” on 20 April 2016. The new declaration must reference the new Low Voltage Directive and any other directives that apply.

In line with practice under other directives, where clients have a third party certificate of compliance from Element for the Low Voltage Directive, then we are recommending that the manufacturer puts the Element Type Examination Certificate number on the equipment marking plate to show that they have had a formal approval under the new Low Voltage Directive.

TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION

Element’s engaged experts can help review your regulatory documentation for conformity with the new requirements including the technical file and EU Declaration of Conformity. Please contact us for further information on our Early Stage Qualification services.

CONTACT ELEMENT

For further information on the new Low Voltage Directive please contact one of our engaged experts:

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