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IN GERMANY

# New Low Voltage Directive

## 2014/35/EU

### The new Low Voltage Directive\* (2014/35/EU) has already become effective

as published in the Official Journal (L 96) of the European Union, dated 29 March 2014  
and as stated in Article 28 of the Directive.

The existing **Directive 2006/95/EC ceases to be applicable as from 20 April 2016** (Articles 25, 26, 27).  
The new Directive keeps the existing "voltage range" for defining the product's scope.

A significant change is that there should only be a **single** EU Declaration of Conformity (DOC) in respect of all Union acts (Article 15), applicable/required to ensure conformity with the requirements for CE-marking. Information of the manufacturer, product and the DOC must be in **language** easily understood by the destination's end-users and required by the Member State's authorities. (Articles 6 & 15).

As stated in the New Directive:

"A number of amendments are to be made to Directive 2006/95/EC ... that Directive **should be recast.**"  
It further states: "... it is **necessary to improve the existing safeguard procedure**" (Preamble 26).

There are many other new and tough requirements, e.g.

- Manufacturer** is part of the Economic Operators, and therefore has clear obligations to **"ensure that it (the product) has been designed and manufactured in accordance with the safety objectives", and to ensure traceability of the product.** (Article 6)  
However, if such standards are not available, IEC standards are to be followed. If IEC standards are also not available, national standards are to be used (Article 12, 13 & 14).
- In the existing Directive, responsibility lies with "the person who places the electrical equipment on the Community market", but **now** the new Directive states: **"the manufacturer shall assume responsibility for the compliance ..."** (Article 15)
- Compliance with harmonised standards (EN) published in the Official Journal (OJ) of the European Union is the presumption for meeting the safety objectives.
- There is a **"Union Safeguard Procedure"** that "... all Member States shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the non-compliant apparatus is withdrawn from their market" (Article 20)
- Withdrawal and/or recall from market is necessary even** though product is in compliance with the Directive – **if it is found unsafe through national measure.** (Article 21)

#### Suggestions:

The New Directive emphasizes that manufacturer should take full responsibility for the safety of product and therefore a reliable third-party testing by an accredited laboratory such as PKM can be very helpful!

#### Note:

**Based on the latest information from the European Commission (EC), this Directive shall enter into force within the whole Europe as from 20 April 2016, but not allowed to use before this date.**

\* Directive 2014/35/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of electrical equipment designed for use within certain voltage limits.



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