CE Mark & ETA Explanations

What is CE marking?

CE marking is a declaration by the manufacturer (through verified testing) that the product meets all the appropriate provisions of the relevant legislation (BS EN 12899-1:2007) implementing certain European Directives. CE marking gives companies easier access into the European market to sell their products without adaptation or rechecking. The initials "CE" do not stand for any specific words but are a declaration by the manufacturer that his product meets the requirements of the applicable European Directive(s).

What are the benefits of CE marking?

The EU introduced the CE marking scheme to make trade easier and cheaper between EU countries. It means that a manufacturer claims that their product conforms to the minimum legal requirements for health and safety as laid down in EU directives.

Often customers will look for CE marking on a product as an indication of conformance to laid down standards, and therefore a level of quality that other products may lack.

Every microprismatic material supplied by 3M has the CE mark, gained through a demanding and thorough process known as European Technical Approval (ETA). We gained our first CE mark back in 2006, and have led the way by putting all our products to the test in this way. This third-party, tried and tested performance is an extra value for our customers at no extra charge every time they use 3M sheeting. ETA (European Technical Approval)

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European Technical Approval (ETA) for a product is a favourable technical assessment of its fitness for the intended use. An ETA is required to certify a product for which there is no existing European Standard that will allow the product to become CE marked. The approval specification which must be met by a product to allow it to become CE marked is outlined by CUAP. These criteria are then approved by EOTA and the product is submitted to a 3rd party test house for scrutiny against the criteria outlined by the CUAP and approved by EOTA. The third party tests encompass such things as product capability, product consistency and also audit the manufacturing processes and factories that are used in the manufacture of the product. The outcome of successful third party testing is the award of a ETA which is of equal scrutiny to that of a CE mark. Once an ETA has been gained for a product, a CE mark can then be applied for All 3M Microprismatic Sheetings have both ETA and CF mark.

