



## **Mutual Recognition Principle**

### **Background**

Mutual recognition ensures market access for products that are not subject to EU harmonisation. It guarantees that any product lawfully sold in one EU country can be sold in another. This is possible even if the product does not fully comply with the technical rules of the other country. Technical rules developed at national levels may create unnecessary obstacles to inter-EU trade. The European Commission aims to:

- guarantee the free movement of goods;
- make sure EU countries accept products lawfully sold in another EU country unless very specific conditions are met. These specific conditions relate to the protection of public safety, health, or the environment.

The principle of mutual recognition stems from Regulation (EC) No 764/2008. It defines the rights and obligations for public authorities and enterprises that wish to market their products in another EU country. The Regulation also defines how a country can deny mutual recognition of a product.

### **EURIS position**

There are currently no products listed on the [European Commission website](#) for mutual recognition under *Chapter 85 - Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof* and a limited number of references to internal combustion engines and moulds under *Chapter 84 - Machinery and mechanical appliances*.

In general, EURIS member company products fall within the scope of at least one of the directives and there are usually well established harmonised product standards.

Therefore, it is not considered an issue for our industry at the current time, but it is necessary to ensure it does not become a problem post-Brexit. This is best achieved by avoiding regulatory divergence between the UK and EU.

EURIS member companies that export completed products to Europe would CE mark them, allowing frictionless export into the EU and the many other international markets that require CE-marked products.

If product regulation or standards diverged between the UK and the EU, then this could lead to issues of additional burden on companies making products to two different standards and the risk of the UK becoming a “dumping ground” for non-CE marked product.

### **Partly completed products**

There will be many members exporting partly completed products to entities on the continent for incorporation into other products. Where these components/assemblies are not being placed on the market and therefore do not require CE marking, it is a matter of private contract between parties or they may be part of the same holding company.

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