

ATEX: ATEX Directive (Directive 2014/34/EU), explained

The ATEX Directive requires equipment and protective systems for use in potentially explosive atmospheres, and their components, to meet essential health and safety requirements and carry the CE and explosion-protection markings, binding manufacturers, importers and distributors. It has applied since 20 April 2016; emergency procedures added by Directive (EU) 2024/2749 apply from 30 May 2026.

Reviewed 24 September 2026 by Conphora compliance team · Next review 14 March 2027 · Not legal advice

Key facts

Reference	Directive 2014/34/EU	Act type	Directive
In force	18 April 2014	Applies from	20 April 2016
Amended by	Directive (EU) 2024/2749	Enforced by	National market surveillance authorities enforce the national laws transposing the directive with the powers of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020, which lists the directive in its Annex I (Article 34 of the directive still cites Regulation (EC) No 765/2008, read as Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 since 16 July 2021); in Denmark, Sikkerhedsstyrelsen (since January 2026 the Markedsovervågning department of Erhvervsstyrelsen) has controlled all products under the directive since 1 December 2018 under executive order nr. 484 of 28 May 2026 on products for use in a potentially explosive atmosphere (in force since 30 May 2026, replacing nr. 811 of 3 June 2022), issued under the Danish product act, whose § 2 lists the directive and whose § 9 makes Erhvervsstyrelsen the control authority.

Key dates

26 February 2014	Directive 2014/34/EU adopted by the European Parliament and the Council as a recast of Directive 94/9/EC	title and signature block after Art. 45
18 April 2014	Entry into force, the twentieth day after publication in OJ L 96 of 29 March 2014	Art. 44, first paragraph
19 April 2016	Deadline for Member States to adopt and publish the laws transposing Article 1, points 2 and 8 to 26 of Article 2, Article 3, Articles 5 to 41 and Annexes III to X	Art. 42(1)
20 April 2016	National measures apply and points 1 and 3 to 7 of Article 2, Article 4 and Annexes I, II, XI and XII apply directly; Directive 94/9/EC repealed; products conforming to the old directive and placed on the market before this date may still be made available or put into service, and certificates issued under it remain valid	Art. 41, Art. 42(1), Art. 43 and Art. 44, second paragraph
28 November 2024	Directive (EU) 2024/2749 in force: internal market emergency procedures inserted as Chapter 5a (Articles 38a to 38e); transposition by 29 May 2026	Art. 7, Art. 11 and Art. 12
30 May 2026	National measures transposing the emergency procedures of Directive (EU) 2024/2749 apply	Art. 11(2)
30 May 2026	Denmark: executive order nr. 484 of 28 May 2026 on products for use in a potentially explosive atmosphere in force, repealing executive order nr. 811 of 3 June 2022 and transposing Directive (EU) 2024/2749	§§ 40-49 and § 53

Obligations by role

Manufacturer (including brand owners and own-use manufacturers)

- Design and manufacture the product in accordance with the Annex II essential health and safety requirements that apply to it, taking account of its intended use: integrated explosion safety (prevent explosive atmospheres, prevent ignition from every electrical and non-electrical source, and halt or limit an explosion that occurs), analysis of possible operating faults and foreseeable misuse, material selection, potential ignition sources, external effects and the supplementary requirements for its group and category. The duty applies equally to products you use for your own purposes.

Art. 4, Art. 6(1) and Annex II, points 1.0.1 to 1.0.4 and 2

- Assign the product to its equipment-group and category per Annex I and follow the Article 13 procedure for it: for categories M1 and 1, EU-type examination (Annex III) plus conformity to type based on quality assurance of the production process (Annex IV) or product verification (Annex V); for categories M2 and 2, EU-type examination plus internal production control with supervised product testing (Annex VI) or product quality assurance (Annex VII) for internal combustion engines and electrical equipment, and internal production control (Annex VIII) with the technical documentation communicated to a notified body for other equipment; for Group II category 3, internal production control (Annex VIII); unit verification (Annex IX) may be used for any group; protective systems follow the category M1 and 1 routes or unit verification. Art. 2, points (8) and (9), Art. 13(1) and (2) and Annex I
- Draw up the technical documentation referred to in Annexes III to IX before placing the product on the market, including an adequate analysis and assessment of the risks, a general description, design and manufacturing drawings and schemes, the explanations needed to understand them, the harmonised standards applied in full or in part or the solutions adopted instead, design calculations and examinations, and test reports; documents and correspondence for the procedures are drawn up in the language the Member State determines, in Denmark Danish or English.

Art. 6(2), Art. 13(6) and Annex VIII, point 2; § 31

- Draw up the EU declaration of conformity following the Annex X model for each product other than a component, translated into the languages the Member State requires, continuously updated and, where several Union acts apply, as a single declaration covering them all; for a component, draw up a written attestation of conformity stating its characteristics and how it must be incorporated. A copy of the declaration or attestation accompanies each product, or a single copy per batch or consignment delivered to a single user. Art. 6(2), Art. 13(3) and Art. 14
- Keep the technical documentation and the EU declaration of conformity or attestation of conformity for 10 years after the product was placed on the market, keep series production in conformity taking account of changes in design, characteristics and the standards or technical specifications referenced, and where the risks warrant it sample-test marketed products, investigate complaints and keep a register of complaints, non-conforming products and recalls, informing distributors. Art. 6(3) and Art. 6(4)
- Keep the technical documentation and the EU declaration of conformity or attestation of conformity for 10 years after the product was placed on the market. Art. 6(3)
- Keep series production of the product in conformity, taking account of changes in its design or characteristics and in the harmonised standards or technical specifications by reference to which conformity is declared. Art. 6(4)
- Where the risks presented by a product warrant it, sample-test products made available on the market, investigate complaints and keep a register of complaints, non-conforming products and recalls, and keep distributors informed of that monitoring. Art. 6(4)
- Mark the product with a type, batch or serial number or other identifier, your name, registered trade name or trade mark and a single postal contact address, and, on products other than components, the

CE marking followed by the identification number of the notified body where it is involved in the production control phase, the specific marking of explosion protection, the symbols of the equipment-group and category, for Group II the letter G for gas, vapour or mist atmospheres and/or D for dust atmospheres, the designation of series or type, the year of construction and any other information essential to safe use; products designed for a particular explosive atmosphere are marked accordingly.

Art. 6(5) to Art. 6(7), Art. 16 and Annex II, point 1.0.5

- Mark the product with a type, batch or serial number or other identifier and with your name, registered trade name or trade mark and a single postal contact address, in a language end users and authorities understand. Art. 6(5) and Art. 6(7)
- On products other than components, affix the CE marking, followed by the identification number of the notified body where it is involved in the production control phase. Art. 16
- On products other than components, affix the specific marking of explosion protection, the equipment-group and category symbols, for Group II the letter G (gas, vapour or mist) and/or D (dust), the designation of series or type, the year of construction and any other information essential to safe use; mark products designed for a particular explosive atmosphere accordingly. Art. 6(6) and Annex II, point 1.0.5
- Supply clear, understandable instructions and safety information in the language the Member State determines, containing at least the marked information (except the batch or serial number), instructions for safe putting into service, use, assembly and dismantling, maintenance, installation and adjustment, the details that allow a decision beyond doubt whether the product can be used safely in the intended area, the electrical and pressure parameters, maximum surface temperatures and other limit values, any special conditions of use and the drawings and diagrams needed. Art. 6(8) and Annex II, point 1.0.6
- If you consider or have reason to believe that a product you placed on the market does not conform, immediately bring it into conformity, withdraw or recall it, and where it presents a risk inform the competent authorities of the Member States where you made it available; on a reasoned request provide all information and documentation demonstrating conformity in a language the authority understands, cooperate on risk-elimination measures, and be able to identify your suppliers and customers for 10 years. Art. 6(9), Art. 6(10) and Art. 11
- If you consider or have reason to believe that a product you placed on the market does not conform, immediately bring it into conformity, withdraw or recall it, and where it presents a risk inform the competent authorities of the Member States where you made it available, with details of the non-compliance and the measures taken. Art. 6(9)
- On a reasoned request from a competent national authority, provide all the information and documentation needed to demonstrate the conformity of the product, in a language that authority can easily understand, and cooperate with it on any action to eliminate the risks posed by products you placed on the market. Art. 6(10)
- Be able to identify to the market surveillance authorities, for 10 years after the supply, every economic operator that supplied you with a product and every economic operator you supplied with one. Art. 11

Authorised representative

- Act under a written mandate that at least lets you keep the EU declaration of conformity or attestation of conformity and the technical documentation at the disposal of the national market surveillance authorities for 10 years after the product was placed on the market, provide conformity information and documentation on reasoned request, and cooperate with the authorities on risk-elimination measures for the products covered by the mandate. Art. 7(2)
- Act as authorised representative only under a written mandate from the manufacturer that sets out the tasks you perform. Art. 7(1) and Art. 7(2)
- Keep the EU declaration of conformity or attestation of conformity and the technical documentation at the disposal of the national market surveillance authorities for 10 years after the product was placed on the market. Art. 7(2)(a)
- On a reasoned request from a competent national authority, provide all the information and documentation needed to demonstrate the conformity of the product, and cooperate with the authorities on any action to eliminate the risks posed by the products covered by your mandate. Art. 7(2)(b) and (c)
- Do not take over the manufacturer's duty to design and manufacture to the essential health and safety requirements or to draw up the technical documentation; those cannot form part of the mandate, although under the conformity assessment modules the mandate may cover affixing the CE marking and drawing up the declaration or attestation on the manufacturer's behalf and under its responsibility. Art. 7(1) and Annex VIII, point 5
- Be able to identify the economic operators that supplied you and that you supplied for 10 years. Art. 11

Importer

- Place only compliant products on the market, and before doing so check that the manufacturer carried out the Article 13 conformity assessment procedure, drew up the technical documentation, affixed the CE marking where applicable, supplied the EU declaration of conformity or attestation of conformity and the required documents, and applied the identification, explosion-protection and address markings; hold a product you believe does not meet the Annex II requirements back until it conforms, and inform the manufacturer and the authorities where it presents a risk. Art. 8(1) and Art. 8(2)
- Indicate your name, registered trade name or trade mark and a postal contact address on the product or, where not possible, on its packaging or in an accompanying document, in a language end users and authorities understand. Art. 8(3)
- Ensure the product is accompanied by instructions and safety information in the language the Member State determines. Art. 8(4)
- Keep storage and transport conditions from jeopardising compliance with the Annex II requirements, and where the risks warrant it sample-test, investigate complaints and keep a register of complaints, non-conforming products and recalls, informing distributors. Art. 8(5) and Art. 8(6)
- While a product is under your responsibility, keep its storage and transport conditions from jeopardising its compliance with the essential requirements. Art. 8(5)
- Where the risks presented by a product warrant it, sample-test products made available on the market, investigate complaints and keep a register of complaints, non-conforming products and recalls, and keep distributors informed of that monitoring. Art. 8(6)
- If a product you placed on the market does not conform, immediately take corrective measures, withdraw or recall it, and where it presents a risk inform the competent authorities of the Member States concerned with details of the non-compliance and the corrective measures. Art. 8(7)
- Keep a copy of the EU declaration of conformity or attestation of conformity at the disposal of the market surveillance authorities for 10 years and ensure the technical documentation can be made available on request; provide conformity information on reasoned request in a language the authority understands, cooperate on risk-elimination measures, and identify suppliers and customers for 10 years.
Art. 8(8), Art. 8(9) and Art. 11
- Keep a copy of the EU declaration of conformity or attestation of conformity at the disposal of the market surveillance authorities for 10 years after the product was placed on the market, and ensure the technical documentation can be made available to them on request. Art. 8(8)
- On a reasoned request from a competent national authority, provide all the information and documentation needed to demonstrate the conformity of the product, in a language that authority can easily understand, and cooperate with it on any action to eliminate the risks posed by products you placed on the market. Art. 8(9)
- Be able to identify to the market surveillance authorities, for 10 years after the supply, every economic operator that supplied you with a product and every economic operator you supplied with one. Art. 11
- If you place a product on the market under your own name or trade mark, or modify a product already placed on the market in a way that may affect compliance, you carry the manufacturer's obligations under Article 6. Art. 10

Distributor (wholesaler or retailer)

- Act with due care and, before making a product available, verify that it bears the CE marking where applicable, is accompanied by the EU declaration of conformity or attestation of conformity, the required documents and instructions and safety information in the language of the Member State where it is sold, and that the manufacturer and importer have applied their identification, explosion-protection and address markings; hold a product you believe does not meet the Annex II requirements back, and inform the manufacturer or importer and the authorities where it presents a risk. Art. 9(1) and Art. 9(2)
- Keep storage and transport conditions from jeopardising compliance with the Annex II essential health and safety requirements. Art. 9(3)
- If a product you made available does not conform, make sure corrective measures are taken to bring it into conformity, withdraw or recall it, and where it presents a risk immediately inform the competent authorities of the Member States concerned. Art. 9(4)
- On reasoned request, provide the information and documentation demonstrating conformity, cooperate on risk-elimination measures, and identify suppliers and customers for 10 years. Art. 9(5) and Art. 11
- On a reasoned request from a competent national authority, provide all the information and documentation needed to demonstrate the conformity of the product, in a language that authority can easily understand, and cooperate with it on any action to eliminate the risks posed by products you made available. Art. 9(5)
- Be able to identify to the market surveillance authorities, for 10 years after the supply, every economic operator that supplied you with a product and every economic operator you supplied with one. Art. 11
- If you sell under your own name or trade mark or modify a product in a way that may affect compliance, you take on the manufacturer's obligations. Art. 10

Penalties

Member States lay down the rules on penalties for infringements of their national transposing laws by economic operators; the penalties must be effective, proportionate and dissuasive and may include criminal penalties for serious infringements. Market surveillance authorities evaluate products that present a risk to the health or safety of persons or to domestic animals or property, require corrective action, withdrawal or recall within a period commensurate with the risk, inform the notified body concerned, and if the operator fails to act prohibit or restrict the making available, withdraw or recall the product and notify the Commission and the other Member States; compliant products that still present a risk can be treated the same way. Formal non-compliance, such as a missing or wrongly affixed CE marking, a missing or wrongly affixed marking of explosion protection, group and category symbols or notified body number, a missing or incorrect EU declaration or attestation of conformity, incomplete technical documentation or missing identification and address information, must be ended and otherwise leads to restriction, prohibition, withdrawal or recall. In Denmark, the directive is implemented by executive order nr. 484 of 28 May 2026 on products for use in a potentially explosive atmosphere, in force since 30 May 2026, which repealed executive order nr. 811 of 3 June 2022 and also transposes the emergency procedures of Directive (EU) 2024/2749 (§§ 40 to 49). It is issued under the Danish product act (lov om produkter og markedsovervågning, consolidated as LBK nr. 22 of 8 January 2026), which lists the directive in § 2(1) no. 3 and names Erhvervsstyrelsen as control authority in § 9; Sikkerhedsstyrelsen, part of Erhvervsstyrelsen since January 2026, has controlled all products under the directive since 1 December 2018. Under § 38 of the order Erhvervsstyrelsen can order formal non-compliance corrected within a deadline, and under § 52 infringements are punished with a fine, rising to imprisonment of up to two years in aggravating circumstances such as danger to safety or health, an accident with serious injury or death, repeat or systematic infringement for financial gain or evasion of control, with a five-year limitation period and liability for companies. Notified bodies for the directive are designated by Erhvervsstyrelsen on the basis of DANAK accreditation (§ 39). Art. 40, Art. 35, Art. 37 and Art. 38; § 38, § 39, § 52 and § 53; § 2, § 9 and § 37

Checklist

- 1. Confirm the product is intended for use in a potentially explosive atmosphere, is a protective system, a safety, controlling or regulating device needed for the safe functioning of such a product, or a component for one, and that no Article 1(2) exclusion applies (Article 1).
- 2. Decide your role for each product, remembering that selling under your own brand, modifying the product or using it for your own purposes makes you the manufacturer (Articles 2(12) and 10).
- 3. Assign the equipment-group (I for mines, II for other places) and category (M1, M2, 1, 2 or 3) from the Annex I criteria and record the gas (G) and/or dust (D) atmosphere the product is designed for (Article 2(6) to (9) and Annex I).
- 4. Identify the harmonised standards published in the Official Journal that cover the product and apply the Annex II essential health and safety requirements, including the supplementary requirements for its group and category (Article 12 and Annex II).
- 5. Select the Article 13 conformity assessment route for the group and category and engage a notified body for EU-type examination, production surveillance or the deposit of the technical documentation where the route requires it (Article 13 and Annexes III to IX).
- 6. Compile the technical documentation with the risk analysis and assessment, drawings, the standards applied, calculations, test reports and any notified body certificates, and keep it for 10 years (Article 6(2) and 6(3)).
- 7. Draw up the Annex X EU declaration of conformity per product model, or the written attestation of conformity for a component, as a single declaration where other Union acts also apply, and put a copy with every product or batch (Articles 6(2), 13(3) and 14).
- 8. Affix the CE marking, the notified body number where it is involved in production control, the specific marking of explosion protection, the group and category symbols, the G and/or D letter, the series or type designation, the serial number, the year of construction and the manufacturer's and importer's name and address (Articles 6(5) to 6(7), 8(3), 16 and Annex II, point 1.0.5).
- 9. Supply instructions and safety information in the required language with the Annex II, point 1.0.6 content, and set up the corrective-action and notification procedure, 10-year supplier and customer traceability and, where the risks warrant it, sample testing and a complaints register (Articles 6(4), 6(8), 6(9), 8(4), 8(7), 9(4) and 11).

Sources

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2. Directive 2014/34/EU as published in OJ L 96, 29 March 2014 (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32014L0034>
3. Document information, dates and relationships for CELEX 32014L0034 (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32014L0034>
4. Directive (EU) 2024/2749 on emergency procedures for the conformity assessment and market surveillance of products (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32024L2749>
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6. Regulation (EU) 2016/425 on personal protective equipment, Article 46 repealing Directive 89/686/EEC (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32016R0425>
7. Directive 1999/92/EC, the workplace directive on explosive atmospheres (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:31999L0092>
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10. Bekendtgørelse af lov om produkter og markedsovervågning, LBK nr. 22 af 8. januar 2026 (Retsinformation) — <https://www.retsinformation.dk/eli/lta/2026/22>
11. Kontrol med ATEX-produkter (Sikkerhedsstyrelsen, Erhvervsstyrelsen Markedsovervågning) — <https://www.sik.dk/erhverv/produkter/atex/kontrol-atex-produkter>
12. Sikkerhedsstyrelsen, en del af Erhvervsstyrelsen from January 2026 (Sikkerhedsstyrelsen) — <https://www.sik.dk/sikkerhedsstyrelsen-del-erhvervsstyrelsen>

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