

EMC: Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive (Directive 2014/30/EU), explained

The Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive requires apparatus and fixed installations to limit their emissions and withstand expected disturbance, with duties for manufacturers, authorised representatives, importers and distributors. It has applied since 20 April 2016, replacing Directive 2004/108/EC; the emergency procedures added by Directive (EU) 2024/2749 apply from 30 May 2026.

Reviewed 24 September 2026 by Conphora compliance team · Next review 13 March 2027 · Not legal advice

Key facts

Reference	Directive 2014/30/EU	Act type	Directive
In force	18 April 2014	Applies from	20 April 2016
Amended by	Regulation (EU) 2018/1139, 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 since 16 July 2021 replaces the market-surveillance chapter of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 that the directive cites; in Denmark, Sikkerhedsstyrelsen (since January 2026 the Markedsovervågning department of Erhvervsstyrelsen) controls apparatus on behalf of Styrelsen for Dataforsyning og Infrastruktur, which holds the sector responsibility, under the Danish act on radio equipment and electromagnetic compatibility.

Key dates

26 February 2014	Directive 2014/30/EU adopted by the European Parliament and the Council as a recast of Directive 2004/108/EC	title and signature block after Art. 47
18 April 2014	Entry into force, the twentieth day after publication in OJ L 96 of 29 March 2014	Art. 46
19 April 2016	Deadline for Member States to adopt and publish the laws transposing the operative articles and Annexes II to IV	Art. 44(1)
20 April 2016	National measures apply and Articles 1, 2, the first definitions of Article 3, Article 5(2) and (3), Article 6, Article 13, Article 19(3) and Annex I apply directly; Directive 2004/108/EC repealed; equipment conforming to the old directive and placed on the market before this date may still be made available or put into service	Art. 43, Art. 44(1), Art. 45 and Art. 46
11 September 2018	Regulation (EU) 2018/1139 in force: the aviation exclusion in Article 2(2)(b) redrawn so that only aviation equipment within the EASA basic regulation and intended exclusively for airborne use is excluded, with certified unmanned aircraft on protected aeronautical frequencies	Art. 2(2)(b) (M1)
28 November 2024	Directive (EU) 2024/2749 in force: internal market emergency procedures inserted as Chapter 5a (Articles 40a to 40c); transposition by 29 May 2026	Art. 5, Art. 11 and Art. 12
30 May 2026	National measures transposing the emergency procedures of Directive (EU) 2024/2749 apply	Art. 11(2)

Obligations by role

Manufacturer (including brand owners)

- Design and manufacture apparatus, having regard to the state of the art, so that the electromagnetic disturbance it generates does not exceed the level above which radio, telecommunications or other equipment cannot operate as intended, and so that it has the immunity to the disturbance expected in its intended use to operate without unacceptable degradation. Art. 6, Art. 7(1) and Annex I, point 1
- Perform an electromagnetic compatibility assessment of the apparatus on the basis of the relevant phenomena, covering all normal intended operating conditions and every configuration identified as representative of its intended use. Annex II, point 2
- Draw up the technical documentation, including a risk analysis and assessment, the design and manufacturing drawings, the harmonised standards applied or the solutions adopted, design calculations and test reports, and carry out the conformity assessment: Module A internal production control under Annex II, or EU-type examination followed by conformity to type under Annex III for some or all aspects of the essential requirements. Art. 7(2), Art. 14 and Annex II, point 3
- Draw up the technical documentation, including an adequate analysis and assessment of the risks, the design and manufacturing drawings, the harmonised standards applied or the solutions adopted, design calculations and test reports. Art. 7(2) and Annex II, point 3
- Carry out the conformity assessment: Module A internal production control under Annex II, or EU-type examination followed by conformity to type under Annex III for some or all aspects of the essential requirements. Art. 7(2) and Art. 14
- Draw up the EU declaration of conformity per Annex IV for each apparatus model, translated into the languages the Member State requires and, where several Union acts apply, as a single declaration covering them all, and affix the CE marking before placing the apparatus on the market.
Art. 7(2), Art. 15 and Art. 17
- Draw up the EU declaration of conformity per Annex IV for each apparatus model, translated into the languages the Member State requires and, where several Union acts apply, as a single declaration covering them all. Art. 7(2) and Art. 15
- Keep the technical documentation and the EU declaration of conformity at the disposal of the authorities for 10 years after the apparatus was placed on the market, and keep series production in conformity, taking account of changes in design, characteristics and the standards referenced. Art. 7(3) and Art. 7(4)
- Keep the technical documentation and the EU declaration of conformity at the disposal of the authorities for 10 years after the apparatus was placed on the market. Art. 7(3)
- Keep series production of the apparatus 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. 7(4)
- Mark the apparatus 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, or where size or nature does not allow it, on the packaging or in an accompanying document, in a language end users and authorities understand.
Art. 7(5) and Art. 7(6)
- Supply instructions and the Article 18 information in the language the Member State determines: the specific precautions for assembly, installation, maintenance and use needed to keep the apparatus compliant, a clear indication, where appropriate also on the packaging, if compliance is not ensured in residential areas, and the information needed to use the apparatus as intended. Art. 7(7) and Art. 18
- Affix the CE marking visibly, legibly and indelibly to the apparatus or its data plate, or where that is not possible to the packaging and the accompanying documents, subject to the general principles of

Regulation (EC) No 765/2008. Art. 16 and Art. 17

- If you consider or have reason to believe that apparatus 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 corrective measures. Art. 7(8)
- On a reasoned request, provide all information and documentation demonstrating conformity in paper or electronic form in a language the authority understands, cooperate on risk-elimination measures, and be able to identify your suppliers and customers for 10 years. Art. 7(9) and Art. 12
- On a reasoned request from a competent national authority, provide all the information and documentation needed to demonstrate the conformity of the apparatus, in paper or electronic form and in a language that authority can easily understand, and cooperate with it on any action to eliminate the risks posed by apparatus you placed on the market. Art. 7(9)
- Be able to identify to the market surveillance authorities, for 10 years after the supply, every economic operator that supplied you with apparatus and every economic operator you supplied with it. Art. 12
- For apparatus intended only for incorporation into a particular fixed installation and not otherwise made available, identify in the accompanying documentation the installation and its EMC characteristics, the precautions for incorporation and your identification and address; Articles 6 to 12 and 14 to 18 are then not compulsory for that apparatus (Article 19(1)). Art. 19(1)
- For apparatus intended only for incorporation into a particular fixed installation and not otherwise made available, identify in the accompanying documentation the fixed installation and its electromagnetic compatibility characteristics, the precautions for incorporation, and your identification and address. Art. 19(1)
- Articles 6 to 12 and 14 to 18 are not compulsory for apparatus intended only for incorporation into a particular fixed installation and not otherwise made available. Art. 19(1)

Authorised representative or person responsible for a fixed installation

- As authorised representative, act under a written mandate that at least lets you keep the EU declaration of conformity and technical documentation at the disposal of the market surveillance authorities for 10 years, provide conformity information and documentation on reasoned request, and cooperate with the authorities on risk-elimination measures; the mandate cannot cover the design duty or drawing up the technical documentation. Art. 8
- Act as authorised representative only under a written mandate from the manufacturer that sets out the tasks you perform. Art. 8(1) and Art. 8(2)
- Keep the EU declaration of conformity and the technical documentation at the disposal of the national market surveillance authorities for 10 years after the apparatus was placed on the market. Art. 8(2)(a)
- On a reasoned request from a competent national authority, provide all the information and documentation needed to demonstrate the conformity of the apparatus, and cooperate with the authorities on any action to eliminate the risks posed by the apparatus covered by your mandate. Art. 8(2)(b) and (c)
- The mandate cannot cover the design and manufacturing duty of Article 7(1) or drawing up the technical documentation; those stay with the manufacturer. Art. 8(1)
- As the person responsible for a fixed installation, install it applying good engineering practices and respecting the information on the intended use of its components, document those practices and hold the documentation at the disposal of the national authorities for as long as the installation is in operation. Art. 19(1), Art. 19(3) and Annex I, point 2
- Where there are indications of non-compliance of the fixed installation, in particular complaints about disturbance, provide the competent authority with evidence of compliance on request and carry out the measures it imposes to bring the installation into compliance. Art. 19(2)

Importer

- Place only compliant apparatus on the market, and before doing so check that the manufacturer carried out the conformity assessment, drew up the technical documentation, affixed the CE marking, supplied the required documents and applied the identification and address markings; hold non-conforming apparatus back and inform the manufacturer and the authorities where it presents a risk.

Art. 9(1) and Art. 9(2)

- Indicate your name, registered trade name or trade mark and a postal contact address on the apparatus or, where not possible, on its packaging or in an accompanying document, in a language end users and authorities understand. Art. 9(3)
- Ensure the apparatus is accompanied by instructions and the Article 18 information in the language the Member State determines, and keep storage and transport conditions from jeopardising compliance with the essential requirements. Art. 9(4) and Art. 9(5)
- Ensure the apparatus is accompanied by instructions and the Article 18 information in the language the Member State determines. Art. 9(4)
- While apparatus is under your responsibility, keep its storage and transport conditions from jeopardising its compliance with the essential requirements. Art. 9(5)
- If apparatus 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. Art. 9(6)
- Keep a copy of the EU declaration of conformity 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. 9(7), Art. 9(8) and Art. 12
- Keep a copy of the EU declaration of conformity at the disposal of the market surveillance authorities for 10 years after the apparatus was placed on the market, and ensure the technical documentation can be made available to them on request. Art. 9(7)
- On a reasoned request from a competent national authority, provide all the information and documentation needed to demonstrate the conformity of the apparatus, in a language that authority can easily understand, and cooperate with it on any action to eliminate the risks posed by apparatus you placed on the market. Art. 9(8)
- Be able to identify to the market surveillance authorities, for 10 years after the supply, every economic operator that supplied you with apparatus and every economic operator you supplied with it. Art. 12
- If you place apparatus on the market under your own name or trade mark, or modify apparatus in a way that may affect compliance, you carry the manufacturer's obligations under Article 7. Art. 11

Distributor (wholesaler or retailer)

- Act with due care and, before making apparatus available, verify that it bears the CE marking, is accompanied by the required documents and by instructions and the Article 18 information in the language of the Member State where it is sold, and that the manufacturer and importer have applied their identification and address markings; hold non-conforming apparatus back and inform the manufacturer or importer and the authorities where it presents a risk. Art. 10(1) and Art. 10(2)
- Keep storage and transport conditions from jeopardising compliance with the essential requirements. Art. 10(3)
- If apparatus 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. 10(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. 10(5) and Art. 12
- On a reasoned request from a competent national authority, provide all the information and documentation needed to demonstrate the conformity of the apparatus, and cooperate with it on any action to eliminate the risks posed by apparatus you made available. Art. 10(5)
- Be able to identify to the market surveillance authorities, for 10 years after the supply, every economic operator that supplied you with apparatus and every economic operator you supplied with it. Art. 12
- If you sell under your own name or trade mark or modify apparatus in a way that may affect compliance, you take on the manufacturer's obligations. Art. 11

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 apparatus that presents a risk to the public interests the directive protects, require corrective action, withdrawal or recall within a period commensurate with the risk, and if the operator fails to act prohibit or restrict the making available, withdraw or recall the apparatus and notify the Commission and the other Member States. Formal non-compliance, such as missing or wrongly affixed CE marking, a missing or incorrect EU declaration of conformity, incomplete technical documentation or missing identification and address information, must be ended and otherwise leads to restriction, prohibition, withdrawal or recall, and the competent authorities may request evidence of compliance of a fixed installation and impose measures to bring it into compliance. In Denmark, the directive is implemented through the act on radio equipment and electromagnetic compatibility (lovbekendtgørelse nr. 958 of 22 June 2022) and executive order nr. 1107 of 6 November 2019, and Sikkerhedsstyrelsen, since January 2026 a department of Erhvervsstyrelsen named Markedsovervågning, controls the products on behalf of Styrelsen for Dataforsyning og Infrastruktur.

Art. 42, Art. 38, Art. 40 and Art. 19(2)

Checklist

1. Decide whether the product is apparatus, a component or sub-assembly for the end user, a mobile installation or a fixed installation, and whether it is radio equipment or inherently benign equipment outside the directive (Articles 2 and 3).
2. Decide your role for each product, remembering that selling under your own brand or modifying the apparatus makes you the manufacturer (Article 11).
3. Identify the harmonised standards published in the Official Journal that cover the apparatus and its electromagnetic environment (Article 13).
4. Perform the electromagnetic compatibility assessment for emissions and immunity in all intended operating conditions and representative configurations (Annex II, point 2).
5. Compile the technical documentation with the risk assessment, drawings, standards applied and test reports, and choose Module A or EU-type examination for some or all aspects (Article 14 and Annexes II and III).
6. Draw up the Annex IV EU declaration of conformity per apparatus model, as a single declaration where the Low Voltage Directive or other Union acts also apply, and keep it and the documentation for 10 years (Articles 7(3) and 15).
7. Affix the CE marking to the apparatus or its data plate before placing it on the market, or to the packaging and documents where the apparatus does not allow it (Article 17).
8. Mark the type or serial number and the manufacturer's and importer's name and address, and write the instructions with the installation precautions and any residential-use restriction (Articles 7(5) to 7(7), 9(3) and 18).
9. For fixed installations, document the good engineering practices applied and identify the person responsible, and keep the documentation for as long as the installation operates (Article 19 and Annex I, point 2).
10. Set up the corrective-action and notification procedure and 10-year supplier and customer traceability (Articles 7(8), 9(6), 10(4) and 12).

Sources

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2. Directive 2014/30/EU as published in OJ L 96, 29 March 2014 (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32014L0030>
3. Document information, dates and relationships for CELEX 32014L0030 (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32014L0030>
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. Directive 2014/53/EU on radio equipment, Article 3(1)(b) on electromagnetic compatibility (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32014L0053>
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