

LVD: Low Voltage Directive (Directive 2014/35/EU), explained

The Low Voltage Directive requires electrical equipment for 50 to 1 000 V AC or 75 to 1 500 V DC not to endanger persons, animals or property, with duties for manufacturers, authorised representatives, importers and distributors. It has applied since 20 April 2016, replacing Directive 2006/95/EC; the emergency procedures added by Directive (EU) 2024/2749 apply from 30 May 2026.

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Key facts

Reference	Directive 2014/35/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 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 electrical equipment under executive order nr. 2516 of 14 December 2021 on the safety of electrical equipment, which implements the directive.

Key dates

26 February 2014	Directive 2014/35/EU adopted by the European Parliament and the Council as a recast of Directive 2006/95/EC	title and signature block after Art. 29
18 April 2014	Entry into force, the twentieth day after publication in OJ L 96 of 29 March 2014	Art. 28
19 April 2016	Deadline for Member States to adopt and publish the laws transposing the operative articles and Annexes II to IV	Art. 26(1)
20 April 2016	National measures apply and Article 1, the safety-objectives paragraph of Article 3, Article 5, Article 13(2) and (3) and Annexes I, V and VI apply directly; Directive 2006/95/EC repealed; equipment conforming to the old directive and placed on the market before this date may still be made available	Art. 25, Art. 26(1), Art. 27 and Art. 28
28 November 2024	Directive (EU) 2024/2749 in force: internal market emergency procedures inserted as Chapter 4a (Articles 22a to 22c); transposition by 29 May 2026	Art. 8, 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 the equipment in accordance with good engineering practice in safety matters so that, properly installed, maintained and used as intended, it does not endanger the health and safety of persons, domestic animals or property, meeting the Annex I safety objectives on marking of essential characteristics, safe assembly and connection, protection against electrical, thermal, radiation and non-electrical hazards, suitable insulation and resistance to mechanical, environmental and overload influences. Art. 3, Art. 6(1) and Annex I
- Draw up the Annex III technical documentation, including a risk analysis and assessment, the design and manufacturing drawings, the standards applied or the solutions adopted, design calculations and test reports, and carry out the Module A internal production control conformity assessment or have it carried out. Art. 6(2) and Annex III, points 1 to 3
- Carry out an adequate analysis and assessment of the risks of the electrical equipment and include it in the technical documentation. Art. 6(2) and Annex III, point 2
- Draw up the Annex III technical documentation: a general description, the design and manufacturing drawings, the standards applied or the solutions adopted, design calculations and test reports.
Art. 6(2) and Annex III, points 2 and 3
- Carry out, or have carried out, the Module A internal production control conformity assessment of Annex III. Art. 6(2) and Annex III, point 1
- Draw up the EU declaration of conformity per Annex IV for each product 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 equipment on the market.
Art. 6(2), Art. 15 and Art. 17
- Draw up the EU declaration of conformity per Annex IV for each product model, translated into the languages the Member State requires and, where several Union acts apply, as a single declaration covering them all. Art. 6(2) and Art. 15
- Keep the technical documentation and the EU declaration of conformity at the disposal of the market surveillance authorities for 10 years after the equipment was placed on the market.
Art. 6(3) and Annex III, point 4.2
- Keep series production in conformity, taking account of changes in design, characteristics and the harmonised, international or national standards referenced, and where the risks warrant it sample-test marketed equipment, investigate complaints and keep a register of complaints, non-conforming equipment and recalls, informing distributors. Art. 6(4)
- Keep series production in conformity, taking account of changes in design or characteristics and in the harmonised, international or national standards referenced. Art. 6(4)
- Where the risks warrant it, sample-test marketed equipment, investigate complaints, keep a register of complaints, non-conforming equipment and recalls, and keep distributors informed of that monitoring.
Art. 6(4)
- Mark the equipment 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. 6(5) and Art. 6(6)
- Supply clear, understandable instructions and safety information in the language the Member State determines, and mark the essential characteristics needed for safe use on the equipment or, if not possible, in an accompanying document. Art. 6(7) and Annex I, point 1(a)

- Affix the CE marking visibly, legibly and indelibly to the equipment 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 equipment 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. 6(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. 6(9) and Art. 11
- On a reasoned request, provide the authority with all information and documentation demonstrating conformity, in paper or electronic form and a language it understands, and cooperate on measures to eliminate the risks. Art. 6(9)
- Be able to identify, for 10 years after each supply, the economic operators that supplied you and the economic operators you supplied. Art. 11

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. Art. 7(2)
- Act only under a written mandate from the manufacturer that sets out the tasks you perform on its behalf. Art. 7(1) and Art. 7(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 equipment was placed on the market. Art. 7(2)(a)
- On a reasoned request, provide the authority with the information and documentation demonstrating conformity, and cooperate with it on measures to eliminate the risks of the equipment covered by your mandate. Art. 7(2)(b) and Art. 7(2)(c)
- Do not take over the manufacturer's duty to design and manufacture to the safety objectives or to draw up the technical documentation; those cannot form part of the mandate, although the mandate may cover affixing the CE marking and drawing up the declaration on the manufacturer's behalf.
Art. 7(1) and Annex III, 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 electrical equipment 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 equipment back 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 equipment 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 equipment 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 safety objectives, and where the risks warrant it sample-test, investigate complaints and keep a register of complaints, non-conforming equipment and recalls, informing distributors. Art. 8(5) and Art. 8(6)
- While equipment is under your responsibility, keep storage and transport conditions from jeopardising its compliance with the safety objectives. Art. 8(5)
- Where the risks warrant it, sample-test marketed equipment, investigate complaints, keep a register of complaints, non-conforming equipment and recalls, and keep distributors informed of that monitoring. Art. 8(6)
- If equipment 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. 8(7)
- 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. 8(8), Art. 8(9) and Art. 11
- Keep a copy of the EU declaration of conformity at the disposal of the market surveillance authorities for 10 years after placing on the market, and ensure the technical documentation can be made available on request. Art. 8(8)
- On a reasoned request, provide the authority with the information and documentation demonstrating conformity in a language it understands, and cooperate on measures to eliminate the risks. Art. 8(9)
- Be able to identify, for 10 years after each supply, the economic operators that supplied you and the economic operators you supplied. Art. 11
- If you place equipment on the market under your own name or trade mark, or modify equipment 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 equipment available, verify that it bears the CE marking, is accompanied by the required documents and by 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 and address markings; hold non-conforming equipment 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 safety objectives. Art. 9(3)
- If equipment 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, provide the authority with the information and documentation demonstrating conformity, and cooperate on measures to eliminate the risks of equipment you made available. Art. 9(5)
- Be able to identify, for 10 years after each supply, the economic operators that supplied you and the economic operators you supplied. Art. 11
- If you sell under your own name or trade mark or modify equipment 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 equipment that presents a risk to persons, domestic animals or property, 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 equipment and notify the Commission and the other Member States; compliant equipment that still presents a risk can be treated the same way. 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. In Denmark, the directive is implemented by executive order nr. 2516 of 14 December 2021 on the safety of electrical equipment, which also covers equipment outside the directive's voltage limits, and Sikkerhedsstyrelsen, since January 2026 a department of Erhvervsstyrelsen named Markedsovervågning, controls electrical products under it and the Danish product act. Art. 24, Art. 19, Art. 21 and Art. 22

Checklist

- 1. Confirm the equipment's voltage rating falls between 50 and 1 000 V AC or 75 and 1 500 V DC, that it has no intentional radio function and that no Annex II exclusion applies (Article 1).
- 2. Decide your role for each product, remembering that selling under your own brand or modifying the equipment makes you the manufacturer (Article 10).
- 3. Identify the harmonised standards published in the Official Journal that cover the equipment, or the IEC or national standards that give a presumption of conformity where none exist (Articles 12 to 14).
- 4. Carry out the risk analysis and assessment and test the equipment against the Annex I safety objectives, including non-electrical hazards, insulation and overload (Article 3 and Annex I).
- 5. Compile the Annex III technical documentation with drawings, the standards applied, calculations and test reports, and keep it for 10 years (Articles 6(2) and 6(3)).
- 6. Draw up the Annex IV EU declaration of conformity per product model, as a single declaration where the EMC Directive or other Union acts also apply (Article 15).
- 7. Affix the CE marking to the equipment or its data plate before placing it on the market, or to the packaging and documents where the equipment does not allow it (Article 17).
- 8. Mark the type or serial number, the manufacturer's and importer's name and address and the essential characteristics for safe use, and supply instructions and safety information in the required language (Articles 6(5) to 6(7), 8(3), 8(4) and Annex I).
- 9. 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), 8(7), 9(4) and 11).

Sources

1. Directive 2014/35/EU on electrical equipment designed for use within certain voltage limits, consolidated text of 30 May 2026 (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:02014L0035-20260530>
2. Directive 2014/35/EU as published in OJ L 96, 29 March 2014 (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32014L0035>
3. Document information, dates and relationships for CELEX 32014L0035 (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32014L0035>
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>
5. Directive 2014/53/EU on radio equipment, Article 1(4) on the relationship with the Low Voltage Directive (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32014L0053>
6. Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 on accreditation and market surveillance (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32008R0765>
7. Low Voltage Directive (European Commission, DG GROW) — https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/electrical-and-electronic-engineering-industries-eei/low-voltage-directive-lvd_en
8. Kontrol med EMC og RED, including the Danish implementation of the Low Voltage Directive (Sikkerhedsstyrelsen) — <https://www.sik.dk/erhverv/produkter/el-produkter/vejledninger/redemc/kontrol-emc-og-red>
9. Sikkerhedsstyrelsen, en del af Erhvervsstyrelsen from January 2026 (Sikkerhedsstyrelsen) — <https://www.sik.dk/sikkerhedsstyrelsen-del-erhvervsstyrelsen>

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