

NAWI: Non-automatic Weighing Instruments Directive (Directive 2014/31/EU), explained

The Non-automatic Weighing Instruments Directive requires operator-assisted weighing instruments used for legally controlled purposes to meet accuracy classes I to IIII, pass notified-body assessment and carry the CE and metrology markings, binding manufacturers, importers and distributors. It has applied since 20 April 2016, replacing Directive 2009/23/EC, and has never been amended.

Reviewed 24 September 2026 by Conphora compliance team · Next review 12 March 2027 · Not legal advice

Key facts

Reference	Directive 2014/31/EU	Act type	Directive
In force	18 April 2014	Applies from	20 April 2016
Enforced by	National market surveillance authorities enforce the national laws transposing the directive; Article 36 still cites Article 15(3) and Articles 16 to 29 of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008, read as Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 since 16 July 2021, whose Annex I lists the directive as point 50 and whose Article 4 requires an economic operator established in the Union for every instrument placed on the market.	CELEX	32014L0031

Key dates

1 January 1993	Council Directive 90/384/EEC on non-automatic weighing instruments applies, with a ten-year transition for instruments conforming to the rules in force before that date; Directive 93/68/EEC's marking arrangements followed from 1 January 1995	Annex V, Part B
5 June 2009	Directive 2009/23/EC, the codification of Directive 90/384/EEC, enters into force; it is the act Directive 2014/31/EU recasts and repeals	document information (dates); recital 1 and footnote 3
26 February 2014	Directive 2014/31/EU adopted by the European Parliament and the Council as a recast of Directive 2009/23/EC aligned with the New Legislative Framework	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 points (3) to (19) of Article 2, Articles 6 to 17, Articles 19 to 43 and Annexes II, III and IV	Art. 44(1)
20 April 2016	National measures apply; Article 1, points (1) and (2) of Article 2, Articles 3, 4, 5 and 18 and Annexes I, V and VI apply directly; Directive 2009/23/EC repealed; instruments conforming to it and placed on the market before this date may still be made available and put into service, and its certificates remain valid	Art. 43, Art. 44(1), Art. 45 and Art. 46
1 July 2018	Danish executive order nr. 591 of 29 May 2018 on the use of non-automatic weighing instruments in force: undertakings that use an instrument for one of the six legal purposes must use the prescribed accuracy class, run a traceable self-check against an in-service tolerance of twice the tolerance at placing on the market and have the instrument reverified by an accredited firm when its seal is broken	§ 1, § 3 to § 8 and § 13
1 July 2021	Legal metrology, including non-automatic weighing instruments, falls under the Danish product act (lov om produkter og markedsovervågning)	§ 2, stk. 1, nr. 13
16 July 2021	Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 applies: it replaces the market surveillance articles of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 that Article 36 cites, lists the directive as point 50 of its	Art. 4(5), Art. 39, Art. 44 and Annex I point 50

Annex I and, under Article 4, requires an economic operator established in the Union for every non-automatic weighing instrument placed on the market

1 July 2022	Danish executive order nr. 773 of 1 June 2022 on making non-automatic weighing instruments available on the market in force, replacing order nr. 1381 of 25 November 2016; it repeats the seven categories of use, the operator duties, the modules, the markings and the notified-body designation by Sikkerhedsstyrelsen	§ 2, § 34, § 35, § 41, § 56 and § 57
1 January 2026	Sikkerhedsstyrelsen becomes the department Markedsovervågning of Erhvervsstyrelsen and continues the same tasks, including the control of weighing instruments and the designation of notified bodies	§ 9

Obligations by role

Manufacturer (including brand owners)

- Design and manufacture instruments intended for the six legal purposes to the essential requirements of Annex I: legal units of mass, an accuracy class I, II, III or IIII with the verification scale interval, minimum capacity and number of verification scale intervals of Table 1, errors within the maximum permissible errors of Table 3, repeatable and reproducible results, insensitivity to tilt, the specified temperature range, correct behaviour on power fluctuation and disturbances, no features that facilitate fraud, correct indication and printing, levelling, zeroing and tare devices, and the extra rules for instruments for direct sales to the public and price labelling. Art. 4, Art. 6(1) and Annex I, points 1 to 15
- Draw up the Annex II technical documentation, which must allow the conformity to be assessed and include an adequate analysis and assessment of the risks, a general description, design and manufacturing drawings, the explanations needed to understand them, the list of harmonised standards applied in full or in part or the solutions adopted instead, design calculations, examinations and test reports, and carry out or have carried out the Article 13 conformity assessment procedure.
Art. 6(2) and Annex II, point 1.3
- Carry out an adequate analysis and assessment of the risks of the instrument and include it in the technical documentation. Art. 6(2) and Annex II, point 1.3
- Draw up the Annex II technical documentation: a general description, design and manufacturing drawings with explanations, the harmonised standards applied or the solutions adopted instead, design calculations, examinations and test reports. Art. 6(2) and Annex II, point 1.3
- Carry out, or have carried out, the Article 13 conformity assessment procedure for instruments intended for a legal purpose. Art. 6(2) and Art. 13
- Choose EU-type examination (module B) followed by conformity to type based on quality assurance of the production process (module D) or on product verification (module F), or conformity based on unit verification (module G); module B is not compulsory for instruments that use no electronic device and whose load-measuring device does not use a spring to balance the load, which then follow module D1 or F1. In Denmark the notified body must be designated by Sikkerhedsstyrelsen or by another Member State. Art. 13 and Annex II; § 34 and § 35
- Draw up the EU declaration of conformity per the Annex IV model, containing the elements of the modules used, continuously updated, 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 and the supplementary metrology marking before placing the instrument on the market; in Denmark the declaration must be in Danish or English. Art. 6(2), Art. 14, Art. 15 and Art. 17(2); § 37
- Draw up the EU declaration of conformity per the Annex IV model with the elements of the modules used, kept continuously updated, translated into the languages the Member State requires (in Denmark Danish or English) and, where several Union acts apply, as a single declaration. Art. 6(2) and Art. 14; § 37
- Affix the CE marking and the supplementary metrology marking, the capital letter M and the last two digits of the year of affixing in a rectangle of the CE marking's height, visibly, legibly and indelibly to the instrument or its data plate, the metrology marking immediately after the CE marking and both followed by the identification number of the notified body involved in production control, affixed by the body or under its instructions. Art. 16 and Art. 17
- Apply the Annex III inscriptions: for legally used instruments the EU-type examination certificate number where appropriate, your name or trade mark, the accuracy class in an oval, Max, Min, e, the type, batch or serial number and where applicable d, T, dT, Lim, temperature limits and the load-receptor ratio, with Max, Min, e and d also near the display; for other instruments only your name or trade mark

and Max, without the conformity marking; and the restrictive use symbol on connected devices not used for the legal purpose. Art. 6(5), Art. 18 and Annex III

- Keep the technical documentation and the EU declaration of conformity for 10 years after the instrument was placed on the market, keep series production in conformity, taking account of changes in design and in the standards referenced, and where the risks warrant it sample-test marketed instruments, investigate and keep a register of complaints, non-conforming instruments and recalls, and keep distributors informed. Art. 6(3) and Art. 6(4)
- Keep the technical documentation and the EU declaration of conformity for 10 years after the instrument was placed on the market. Art. 6(3)
- Keep series production in conformity, taking account of changes in design or characteristics and in the harmonised standards referenced. Art. 6(4)
- Where the risks warrant it, sample-test marketed instruments, investigate complaints, keep a register of complaints, non-conforming instruments and recalls, and keep distributors informed of that monitoring. Art. 6(4)
- Mark your name, registered trade name or trade mark and a single postal contact address on the instrument, supply legally used instruments with instructions and information in a language the Member State determines, and if an instrument you placed on the market does not conform, immediately bring it into conformity, withdraw or recall it, inform the competent authorities where it presents a risk, provide conformity documentation on reasoned request, cooperate on risk-elimination measures and identify your suppliers and customers for 10 years. Art. 6(6) to Art. 6(9) and Art. 11
- Mark your name, registered trade name or trade mark and a single postal contact address on the instrument. Art. 6(6)
- Supply legally used instruments with instructions and information in a language the Member State determines. Art. 6(7)
- If an instrument 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 national authorities of the Member States concerned. Art. 6(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 posed by the instruments. 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 the technical documentation at the disposal of the national market surveillance authorities for 10 years after the instrument was placed on the market, provide conformity information and documentation on reasoned request, and cooperate with the authorities on risk-elimination measures for the instruments in your mandate. 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 instrument 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 instruments 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 essential requirements or to draw up the technical documentation; those cannot form part of the mandate. Art. 7(1)
- Where the notified body instructs it, affix its identification number after the CE and metrology markings on the manufacturer's behalf, and be able to identify the economic operators that supplied you and that you supplied for 10 years. Art. 11 and Art. 17(4)
- Where the notified body instructs it, affix its identification number after the CE and metrology markings on the manufacturer's behalf. Art. 17(4)
- Be able to identify, for 10 years after each supply, the economic operators that supplied you and the economic operators you supplied. Art. 11
- Where the manufacturer is outside the Union and no importer exists, you may be the economic operator established in the Union that Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 requires for every non-automatic weighing instrument placed on the market, verifying the declaration and documentation, informing the authorities of risks and cooperating on corrective action. Art. 4(1) to Art. 4(5)

Importer

- Place only compliant instruments on the market, and before placing a legally used instrument on the market check that the manufacturer carried out the Article 13 conformity assessment, drew up the technical documentation, affixed the CE marking and the supplementary metrology marking, supplied the required documents and applied the identification and address markings; hold back instruments you believe do not meet Annex I and inform the manufacturer and the market surveillance authorities where they present a risk. For instruments not intended for a legal purpose, check the identification and address markings. Art. 8(1) and Art. 8(2)
- Indicate your name, registered trade name or trade mark and a postal contact address on the instrument or, where that requires opening the packaging, on the packaging and in an accompanying document, in a language end users and the authorities understand. Art. 8(3)
- Ensure legally used instruments are accompanied by instructions and information in a language the Member State determines, in Denmark Danish or English, and keep storage and transport conditions from jeopardising compliance with Annex I while the instrument is under your responsibility.
Art. 8(4) and Art. 8(5); § 20, stk. 2, nr. 3
- Ensure legally used instruments are accompanied by instructions and information in a language the Member State determines, in Denmark Danish or English. Art. 8(4); § 20, stk. 2, nr. 3
- While an instrument is under your responsibility, keep storage and transport conditions from jeopardising its compliance with Annex I. Art. 8(5)
- Where the risks warrant it, sample-test marketed instruments, investigate and keep a register of complaints, non-conforming instruments and recalls, and keep distributors informed. Art. 8(6)
- If an instrument 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 national 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 of legally used instruments 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 of legally used instruments at the disposal of the market surveillance authorities for 10 years, 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 posed by the instruments. 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 an instrument on the market under your own name or trade mark, or modify an instrument 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, retailer or dealer supplying scales)

- Act with due care and, before making a legally used instrument available, verify that it bears the CE marking and the supplementary metrology marking, is accompanied by the required documents and by instructions and information in a language end users in the Member State understand, and that the manufacturer and importer applied their identification and address markings; hold back instruments you believe do not meet Annex I and inform the manufacturer or importer and the market surveillance authorities where they present a risk. For instruments not intended for a legal purpose, verify the identification and address markings. Art. 9(1) and Art. 9(2)
- Keep storage and transport conditions from jeopardising compliance with Annex I while a legally used instrument is under your responsibility. Art. 9(3)
- If an instrument 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 national 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 the economic operators that supplied you and that you supplied for 10 years. Art. 9(5) and Art. 11
- 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 posed by the instruments. 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 an instrument in a way that may affect compliance, you take on the manufacturer's obligations; in Denmark an instrument used for weighing on which payment is based must also meet the rules in the hands of the undertaking that uses it, which must use the prescribed accuracy class, self-check it and have it reverified, and can be ordered to bring it into conformity or forbidden to use it. Art. 10; § 3 to § 8; § 16 a
- If you make an instrument available under your own name or trade mark, or modify one in a way that may affect compliance, you take on the manufacturer's obligations under Article 6. Art. 10

Penalties

Member States lay down the rules on penalties for infringements by economic operators of their national transposing laws and enforce them; the penalties must be effective, proportionate and dissuasive and may include criminal penalties for serious infringements. Market surveillance authorities evaluate instruments that present a risk to the public interests the directive protects, require corrective action, withdrawal or recall within a period commensurate with the risk, inform the notified body, and if the operator fails to act prohibit or restrict the making available, withdraw or recall the instrument and notify the Commission and the other Member States; compliant instruments that still present a risk can be treated the same way. Formal non-compliance, such as a missing or wrongly affixed CE marking or supplementary metrology marking, missing Annex III inscriptions, a missing notified body number, a missing or incorrect EU declaration of conformity, missing or incomplete technical documentation or missing manufacturer or importer identification, must be ended and otherwise leads to restriction, prohibition, withdrawal or recall. Since 16 July 2021 the surveillance powers come from Regulation (EU) 2019/1020, whose authorities can demand documents and supply-chain information, inspect and check products, require corrective action, prohibit the making available and have instruments withdrawn, recalled or destroyed. In Denmark, executive order nr. 773 of 1 June 2022 lets Sikkerhedsstyrelsen order formal non-compliance corrected within a deadline and then order withdrawal, recall or a sales ban under the product act, and punishes with a fine the placing on the market of non-conforming instruments, missing documentation, markings, instructions, notifications, mandates and use of a body not designated by Sikkerhedsstyrelsen or another Member State, with imprisonment of up to 2 years in aggravating circumstances; executive order nr. 591 of 29 May 2018 fines the owner who uses an unmarked instrument, the wrong accuracy class or no self-check or reverification for a legal purpose; and the product act adds orders to warn users, stop marketing, remedy, stop sales, withdraw, recall or destroy, prohibitions, orders to the owner of an instrument used for payment-based weighing, and fines, rising to imprisonment of up to 2 years in aggravating circumstances, for breaches of the act, of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 Article 4 and of the authority's decisions. Since January 2026 Sikkerhedsstyrelsen is the department Markedsovervågning of Erhvervsstyrelsen.

Art. 36, Art. 37, Art. 39, Art. 40 and Art. 42; Art. 14, Art. 16, Art. 39 and Annex I point 50; § 54 and § 55; § 12; § 2, stk. 1, nr. 13, § 9, §

Checklist

1. Confirm the instrument is non-automatic, that is it needs an operator during weighing; an instrument that weighs without one falls under the Measuring Instruments Directive as MI-006 instead (Article 2, point (2)).
2. Decide which of the seven categories of use in Article 1(2) the instrument is intended for; only the six purposes in points (a) to (f) trigger the essential requirements, the conformity assessment and the CE and metrology markings (Articles 1(2) and 4).
3. Decide your role for each product, remembering that selling under your own brand or modifying an instrument makes you the manufacturer (Article 2, point (5), and Article 10).
4. Select the accuracy class I, II, III or IIII and the verification scale interval, minimum capacity and number of verification scale intervals from Annex I Table 1, and design to the maximum permissible errors of Table 3 and the direct-sales rules of point 14 where relevant (Annex I, points 2, 4 and 14).
5. Apply the harmonised standards listed in the Official Journal under the directive, or document the solutions used instead (Article 12 and Annex II, point 1.3(c)(iv)).
6. Choose the module route, B + D, B + F, D1 or F1 for mechanical non-spring instruments, or G, and engage a notified body listed by the Commission; in Denmark one designated by Sikkerhedsstyrelsen or another Member State (Article 13, Annex II and executive order nr. 773/2022 § 34).
7. Compile the technical documentation with the risk analysis, drawings, standards list, calculations and test reports, and keep it with the declaration for 10 years (Article 6(3) and Annex II, point 1.3).
8. Draw up the Annex IV EU declaration of conformity, as a single declaration where other Union acts also apply, translated as the Member States require (Article 14).
9. Affix the CE marking, the supplementary metrology marking M with the two-digit year in a rectangle, the notified body number and the Annex III inscriptions before placing on the market, and the restrictive use symbol on connected non-legal devices (Articles 16, 17 and 18 and Annex III).
10. 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(6), 8(7), 9(4) and 11).

Sources

1. Directive 2014/31/EU on non-automatic weighing instruments as published in OJ L 96, 29 March 2014 (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32014L0031>
2. Document information, dates, corrigenda and relationships for CELEX 32014L0031 (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32014L0031>
3. Directive 2009/23/EC on non-automatic weighing instruments, repealed from 20 April 2016 (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32009L0023>
4. Directive 2014/32/EU on measuring instruments, which covers automatic weighing instruments (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32014L0032>
5. Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 on market surveillance and compliance of products (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32019R1020>
6. Legal metrology (European Commission, DG GROW) — https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/single-market/goods/building-blocks/legal-metrology_en
7. Measuring and weighing instruments in the EU, with the WELMEC guides and harmonised standards under the NAWID (European Commission, DG GROW) — https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/single-market/goods/building-blocks/legal-metrology/measuring-weighing-instruments-eu_en
8. Bekendtgørelse nr. 773 af 1. juni 2022 om tilgængeliggørelse på markedet af ikke-automatiske vægte (Retsinformation) — <https://www.retsinformation.dk/eli/lta/2022/773>
9. Bekendtgørelse nr. 591 af 29. maj 2018 om anvendelse af ikke-automatiske vægte (Retsinformation) — <https://www.retsinformation.dk/eli/lta/2018/591>
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. Regler og bekendtgørelser for måling og vægt (Sikkerhedsstyrelsen) — <https://www.sik.dk/erhverv/produkter/maaling-og-vaegt-metrologi/love-og-regler-0/regler-og-bekendtgørelser-maaling-og-vaegt>
12. Spørgsmål og svar om direktiv om ikke-automatiske vægte (NAWI) (Sikkerhedsstyrelsen) — <https://www.sik.dk/erhverv/produkter/maaling-vaegt-og-e-maerkning-metrologi/spoergsmaal-og-svar/spoergsmaal-og-svar-om-direktiv-om-ikke-automatiske-vaegte-nawi>
13. Vejledning for ikke-automatiske vægte (NAWI) i brug (Sikkerhedsstyrelsen) — <https://www.sik.dk/erhverv/produkter/maaling-og-vaegt-metrologi/vejledninger/vejledning-ikke-automatiske-vaegte-nawi-brug>
14. Legal måling og vejning (legal metrologi) (Sikkerhedsstyrelsen) — <https://www.sik.dk/erhverv/produkter/maaling-og-vaegt-metrologi/vejledninger/legal-maaling-og-vejning-legal-metrologi>
15. Sikkerhedsstyrelsen, en del af Erhvervsstyrelsen from January 2026 (Erhvervsstyrelsen) — <https://erhvervsstyrelsen.dk/sikkerhedsstyrelsen-en-del-af-erhvervsstyrelsen>