

RED: Radio Equipment Directive (Directive 2014/53/EU), explained

The Radio Equipment Directive sets the essential requirements, from safety and electromagnetic compatibility to USB-C charging, that radio equipment must meet before manufacturers, importers or distributors place it on the EU market. It has applied since 13 June 2016; common charger rules cover laptops from 28 April 2026, and the emergency procedures of Directive (EU) 2024/2749 from 30 May 2026.

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

Key facts

Reference	Directive 2014/53/EU	Act type	Directive
In force	11 June 2014	Applies from	13 June 2016
Amended by	Regulation (EU) 2018/1139, Directive (EU) 2022/2380, Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/1717, Directive (EU) 2024/2839, 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) carries out the market surveillance of radio equipment 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

16 April 2014	Directive 2014/53/EU adopted by the European Parliament and the Council in Strasbourg	title and signature block after Art. 52
11 June 2014	Entry into force, the twentieth day after publication in OJ L 153 of 22 May 2014	Art. 51
12 June 2016	Deadline for Member States to adopt and publish their transposing laws	Art. 49(1)
13 June 2016	National measures apply; Directive 1999/5/EC repealed; radio equipment conforming to the previous rules could still be placed on the market until 13 June 2017	Art. 48, Art. 49(1) and Art. 50
12 June 2018	Earliest date from which manufacturers must register radio equipment types in categories the Commission designates by delegated act, before placing them on the market	Art. 5(1)
9 August 2018	Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/1354 applies: packaging pictogram and instruction text for radio equipment subject to national restrictions on putting into service or authorisation of use	Art. 2 and Art. 3
11 September 2018	Regulation (EU) 2018/1139 in force: Annex I point 3 redrawn so that only aviation equipment within the EASA basic regulation and intended exclusively for airborne use is excluded, with certified	Annex I, point 3 (M1)

unmanned aircraft on
protected aeronautical
frequencies

17 March 2022	Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/320 applies: hand-held mobile phones with computer-like capability must support caller location through Wi-Fi and Galileo-compatible satellite data in emergency communications (Art. 3(3)(g))	Art. 1 and Art. 2
27 December 2022	Directive (EU) 2022/2380 in force: the common charger amendment adds Article 3(4), Article 3a, the charging label in Article 10(8) and Annex Ia; Member States had to transpose by 28 December 2023	Art. 1, Art. 2(1) and Art. 3
1 October 2023	Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/1717 in force: Annex Ia now references EN IEC 62680-1-3:2022 for the USB Type-C receptacle and cable and EN IEC 62680-1-2:2022 for USB Power Delivery	Annex Ia, Part I, points 2 and 3 (M3)
27 November 2024	Directive (EU) 2024/2839 in force: Member States report on the application of the directive by 12 December 2027 and every five years	Art. 4 and Art. 6
28 November 2024	Directive (EU) 2024/2749 in force: internal market emergency procedures inserted as Chapter Va (Articles 43a to 43e); transposition by 29 May 2026	Art. 9, Art. 11 and Art. 12

28 December 2024	Common charger rules apply to handheld mobile phones, tablets, digital cameras, headphones, headsets, handheld videogame consoles, portable speakers, e-readers, keyboards, mice, portable navigation systems and earbuds: USB Type-C receptacle, USB Power Delivery above 15 W, charging label, pictogram and the option to buy without a charger	Art. 2(1); Art. 3(4), Art. 3a, Art. 10(8) and Annex Ia, Part I, points 1.1 to 1.12
1 August 2025	Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/30 applies, as amended by Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/2444: the network-protection, privacy and fraud essential requirements of Article 3(3)(d), (e) and (f) apply to internet-connected radio equipment, childcare and toy radio equipment, wearables and payment-enabled equipment	Art. 1 and Art. 3; Art. 1
28 April 2026	Common charger rules apply to laptops (Annex Ia, Part I, point 1.13)	Art. 2(1)
19 May 2026	Delegated Regulation (EU) 2026/339 in force: it repeals Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/30 with effect from 11 December 2027, when the Cyber Resilience Act applies in full	Art. 1 and Art. 2
30 May 2026	National measures transposing the emergency procedures	Art. 11(2)

of Directive (EU)
2024/2749 apply

28 December 2026	Deadline for the Commission's report on the impact of buying radio equipment without a charging device, with a possible proposal for mandatory unbundling	Art. 47(3)
11 December 2027	Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/30 repealed: the cybersecurity requirements of Article 3(3)(d), (e) and (f) cease to apply as the Cyber Resilience Act, Regulation (EU) 2024/2847, takes over; equipment placed on the market between 1 August 2025 and 10 December 2027 remains subject to surveillance under them	Art. 1 and recitals 4 and 5
12 December 2027	Deadline for Member States' first five-yearly report on the application of the directive, covering the period from 13 June 2023	Art. 47(1)

Obligations by role

Manufacturer (including brand owners)

- Design and manufacture radio equipment to the essential requirements: health and safety of persons, domestic animals and property with the Low Voltage Directive's safety objectives and no voltage limit, an adequate level of electromagnetic compatibility, and effective and efficient use of the radio spectrum to avoid harmful interference. Art. 3(1), Art. 3(2) and Art. 10(1)
- Where the Commission has designated your category by delegated act, meet the additional Article 3(3) requirements: from 1 August 2025 network protection, privacy and fraud protection for internet-connected, childcare, toy, wearable and payment-enabled equipment, and since 17 March 2022 caller location for smartphones. Art. 3(3); Art. 1 and Art. 3; Art. 1
- For the thirteen Annex Ia categories capable of wired charging, fit a USB Type-C receptacle that stays accessible and operational, accept USB Type-C cables, incorporate USB Power Delivery where charging exceeds 5 V, 3 A or 15 W, and let any additional protocol keep full USB Power Delivery functionality. Art. 3(4) and Annex Ia, Part I
- Construct the equipment so that it can be operated in at least one Member State without infringing the rules on the use of radio spectrum. Art. 10(2)
- Draw up the Annex V technical documentation before placing the equipment on the market, run the conformity assessment: Annex II internal production control, Annex III EU-type examination or Annex IV full quality assurance, using a notified body where harmonised standards were not or only partly applied for the spectrum and Article 3(3) requirements, then draw up the EU declaration of conformity and affix the CE marking. Art. 10(3), Art. 17, Art. 18 and Art. 21
- Draw up the Annex V technical documentation before placing the radio equipment on the market. Art. 10(3) and Art. 21
- Run the conformity assessment: Annex II internal production control, Annex III EU-type examination or Annex IV full quality assurance, using a notified body where harmonised standards were not or only partly applied for the spectrum and Article 3(3) requirements. Art. 10(3) and Art. 17
- Where compliance has been demonstrated, draw up the EU declaration of conformity. Art. 10(3) and Art. 18
- Keep the technical documentation and the EU declaration of conformity for 10 years after the equipment was placed on the market, keep series production in conformity, 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. 10(4) and Art. 10(5)
- Keep the technical documentation and the EU declaration of conformity for 10 years after the equipment was placed on the market. Art. 10(4)
- Keep procedures in place for series production to remain in conformity, taking account of changes in design and in the referenced standards. Art. 10(5)
- Where the risks warrant it, sample-test equipment made available, investigate complaints, keep a register of complaints, non-conforming equipment and recalls, and keep distributors informed. Art. 10(5)
- 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, on the equipment 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. 10(6) and Art. 10(7)
- Supply instructions and safety information in the language the Member State determines, including for transmitting equipment the frequency bands and maximum radio-frequency power, and for Annex Ia equipment the charging specifications and compatible chargers plus the charging label printed in the

instructions and on or affixed to the packaging, displayed near the price in distance selling.

Art. 10(8) and Annex Ia, Parts II and IV

- Supply instructions and safety information in the language the Member State determines, including for transmitting equipment the frequency bands and maximum radio-frequency power, and for Annex Ia equipment the charging specifications and compatible chargers. Art. 10(8) and Annex Ia, Part II
- For Annex Ia equipment, print the charging label in the instructions and on or affixed to the packaging, and display it near the price in distance selling. Art. 10(8) and Annex Ia, Part IV
- Accompany each item with a copy of the EU declaration of conformity or a simplified declaration giving the exact internet address of the full text, and where national restrictions on putting into service or authorisation of use exist, show the pictogram or the words Restrictions or Requirements in with the Member State abbreviations on the packaging and list the restrictions in the instructions.

Art. 10(9) and Art. 10(10); Art. 2

- Accompany each item with a copy of the EU declaration of conformity or a simplified declaration giving the exact internet address of the full text. Art. 10(9)
- Where national restrictions on putting into service or authorisation of use exist, show the pictogram or the words Restrictions or Requirements in with the Member State abbreviations on the packaging, and list the restrictions in the instructions. Art. 10(10); Art. 2
- When offering Annex Ia equipment with a charging device, also offer it without one, and show the Annex Ia Part III pictogram on the packaging or as a sticker stating whether a charger is included, visibly and, in distance selling, close to the price. Art. 3a
- When offering Annex Ia equipment together with a charging device, also offer it without one. Art. 3a(1)
- Show the Annex Ia Part III pictogram on the packaging or as a sticker stating whether a charger is included, visibly and, in distance selling, close to the price. Art. 3a(2) and Annex Ia, Part III
- Affix the CE marking visibly, legibly and indelibly to the equipment or its data plate and to the packaging before placing it on the market, followed by the notified body's identification number where the Annex IV procedure was used; the marking may be smaller than 5 mm if it stays legible. Art. 19 and Art. 20
- 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. 10(11)
- 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. 10(12) and Art. 15
- On a reasoned request, provide all information and documentation demonstrating conformity, in paper or electronic form and in a language the authority understands, and cooperate on risk-elimination measures. Art. 10(12)
- Be able to identify to the market surveillance authorities the economic operators that supplied you and that you supplied, for 10 years. Art. 15
- Where the Commission designates your category, register the radio equipment type in the central system before placing it on the market and affix the registration number, and provide statements of compliance for intended combinations of radio equipment and software. Art. 4 and Art. 5
- Where the Commission designates your category, register the radio equipment type in the central system before placing it on the market, and affix the registration number. Art. 5

- Where a delegated act requires it, provide statements of compliance for the intended combinations of radio equipment and software. Art. 4

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. 11(2)
- 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. 11(1)
- Where the Annex IV procedure applies, the notified body's identification number may be affixed by you under the body's instructions, and you must be able to identify suppliers and customers for 10 years. Art. 20(3) and Art. 15
- Where the Annex IV procedure applies, affix the notified body's identification number after the CE marking under the body's instructions. Art. 20(3)
- Be able to identify to the market surveillance authorities the economic operators that supplied you and that you supplied, for 10 years. Art. 15

Importer

- Place only compliant radio equipment on the market, and before doing so check that the manufacturer carried out the conformity assessment, that the equipment can operate in at least one Member State within the spectrum rules, that the technical documentation exists, that the CE marking is affixed, that the instructions, declaration of conformity and restriction information accompany it and that the manufacturer's identification and address are applied; hold non-conforming equipment back and inform the manufacturer and the authorities where it presents a risk. Art. 12(1) and Art. 12(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. 12(3)
- Ensure the equipment is accompanied by instructions and safety information in the language the Member State determines, and for Annex Ia equipment that the charging label is supplied and displayed visibly and, in distance selling, close to the price. Art. 12(4)
- Ensure the equipment is accompanied by instructions and safety information in the language the Member State determines. Art. 12(4)
- For Annex Ia equipment, ensure the charging label is supplied and displayed visibly and, in distance selling, close to the price. Art. 12(4)
- Keep storage and transport conditions from jeopardising compliance with the essential requirements, and where the risks warrant it sample-test, investigate complaints and keep a register of complaints, non-conforming equipment and recalls, informing distributors. Art. 12(5) and Art. 12(6)
- Keep storage and transport conditions from jeopardising compliance with the essential requirements while the equipment is under your responsibility. Art. 12(5)
- Where the risks warrant it, sample-test equipment made available, investigate complaints, keep a register of complaints, non-conforming equipment and recalls, and keep distributors informed. Art. 12(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. 12(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. 12(8), Art. 12(9) and Art. 15
- Keep a copy of the EU declaration of conformity for 10 years after placing on the market and ensure the technical documentation can be made available on request. Art. 12(8)
- On a reasoned request, provide all information and documentation demonstrating conformity, in paper or electronic form and in a language the authority understands, and cooperate on risk-elimination measures. Art. 12(9)
- Be able to identify to the market surveillance authorities the economic operators that supplied you and that you supplied, for 10 years. Art. 15
- 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 10. Art. 14

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 met their spectrum-operability, identification, address, instruction, declaration and restriction-information duties; hold non-conforming equipment back and inform the manufacturer or importer and the authorities where it presents a risk. Art. 13(1) and Art. 13(2)
- For Annex Ia equipment, ensure the charging label is supplied and displayed visibly and legibly and, in distance selling, close to the price indication. Art. 13(2), third subparagraph
- Keep storage and transport conditions from jeopardising compliance with the essential requirements. Art. 13(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. 13(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. 13(5) and Art. 15
- On a reasoned request, provide all information and documentation demonstrating conformity, in paper or electronic form and in a language the authority understands, and cooperate on risk-elimination measures. Art. 13(5)
- Be able to identify to the market surveillance authorities the economic operators that supplied you and that you supplied, for 10 years. Art. 15
- 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. 14

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 or does not meet an essential requirement, 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, a missing or incorrect charging label or pictogram, missing identification or restriction information, or a breach of the charger-unbundling or registration duties, must be ended and otherwise leads to restriction, prohibition, withdrawal or recall, and deficient technical documentation can trigger a test at the manufacturer's or importer's expense. In Denmark, Sikkerhedsstyrelsen, since January 2026 a department of Erhvervsstyrelsen named Markedsovervågning, carries out market surveillance of radio equipment on behalf of Styrelsen for Dataforsyning og Infrastruktur under the act on radio equipment and electromagnetic compatibility (lovbekendtgørelse nr. 958 of 22 June 2022) and executive order nr. 1107 of 6 November 2019. Art. 46, Art. 40, Art. 42, Art. 43 and Art. 21(4)

Checklist

- 1. Confirm the product is radio equipment under Article 2(1), point (1), and that no Annex I or Article 1(3) exclusion applies; if it has no intentional radio function, apply the Low Voltage and EMC Directives instead.
- 2. Decide your role for each product, remembering that selling under your own brand or modifying the equipment makes you the manufacturer (Article 14).
- 3. List the applicable essential requirements: Article 3(1) and 3(2) for all equipment, Article 3(3)(d) to (f) for internet-connected, childcare, toy, wearable and payment equipment until 11 December 2027 (medical devices are exempt from all three), Article 3(3)(g) for smartphones, and Article 3(4) with Annex Ia for the thirteen charger categories.
- 4. Choose the conformity assessment route: Annex II internal production control where harmonised standards are applied in full, otherwise Annex III EU-type examination or Annex IV full quality assurance with a notified body (Article 17).
- 5. Compile the Annex V technical documentation, including software and firmware versions, test reports and the explanation of spectrum operability, before placing the product on the market (Article 21).
- 6. Draw up the EU declaration of conformity per Annex VI, or the simplified Annex VII text with the internet address of the full declaration, and keep it and the documentation for 10 years (Articles 10(4), 10(9) and 18).
- 7. Affix the CE marking to the equipment and its packaging, add the type or serial number and the manufacturer's and importer's name and address (Articles 10(6), 10(7), 12(3) and 20).
- 8. Write the instructions with frequency bands and maximum power, the charging specifications and label for Annex Ia equipment, and the restriction pictogram or text where national restrictions apply (Article 10(8) and 10(10), Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/1354).
- 9. For phones, tablets, laptops and the other Annex Ia categories, offer the product without a charger and put the charger-included pictogram and the charging label on the packaging and near the online price (Articles 3a and 10(8)).
- 10. Set up the corrective-action and notification procedure, 10-year supplier and customer traceability and, where the risks warrant it, a complaints register (Articles 10(5), 10(11), 12(7), 13(4) and 15).

Sources

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4. Directive (EU) 2022/2380 amending Directive 2014/53/EU, the common charger (EUR-Lex) — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32022L2380>
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11. Radio Equipment Directive (European Commission, DG GROW) — https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/electrical-and-electronic-engineering-industries-eei/radio-equipment-directive-red_en
12. Kontrol med EMC og RED (Sikkerhedsstyrelsen) — <https://www.sik.dk/erhverv/produkter/el-produkter/vejledninger/redemc/kontrol-emc-og-red>
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