

# Low Voltage Directive

*{ PSES & EMCS      Joint Meeting  
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- ⌘ Late 90's, early 2000's, the Commission found a consensus for a review and update of the regulations for a common base
- ⌘ Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 and Decision No 768/2008/EC brought together, in the New Legislative Framework (NLF), all the elements required for a comprehensive regulatory framework

## New Legislative Framework (NLF)

# The core laws included in NLF are

## ↳ Regulation (EC)765/2008

- ⌘ Established the legal basis for accreditation and market surveillance,
- ⌘ Consolidated the meaning of the CE marking

## ↳ Decision No768/2008/EC

- ⌘ Provided a common framework for the marketing of products.
- ⌘ Updated, harmonized, and consolidated the various technical instruments
  - ⌘ Common definitions
  - ⌘ Common conformity assessment procedures
  - ⌘ Obligations of economic operators
  - ⌘ Rules for CE marking
  - ⌘ Notification criteria for conformity assessment bodies

# Core of NLF

## ↳ NLF considers the entire product life

- ↳ Operators in the supply chain – manufacturer, authorized representative, distributor, importers – and relation to product
- ↳ National authority responsibility – regulatory authorities, notification authorities, national accreditation entities, market surveillance, authorities controlling imports – recognition of the various activities

## Core of NLF

- ↳ The purpose of the recast of these directives is to:
  - ↳ Clarify the definitions and obligations of economic operators on the EU market
    - ↳ especially for the manufacturer and importer.
    - ↳ Manufacturer has the sole duty of conformity assessment of the product.
  - ↳ Use of a more comprehensive measure to trace the product supply chain
    - ↳ Both manufacturers and importers shall be identified easily.
  - ↳ Enhance the market surveillance activity to prohibit a non-compliant product or a product which presents a risk.

## Recast Purpose

⌘ In order to align with the EU New Legislative Framework (NLF), 8 EU directives listed in the “alignment package” were recast and published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* on March 29, 2014.

⌘ Directives enter into force on April 18, 2014

⌘ Member States have until April 20, 2016 to amend their national regulations

⌘ Old Directives are repealed on April 20, 2016

## NLF – New directives

Directive		Supercedes
Explosives for civil users	2014/28/EU	93/15/EEC; Amended by 2004/57/EC
Simple pressure vessels (SPVD)	2014/29/EU	2009/105/EC (amended)
Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC)	2014/30/EU	2004/108/EC
Non-automatic weighing instruments (NAWI)	2014/31/EU	2009/23/EC (amended)
Measuring Instruments (MID)	2014/32/EU	2004/22/EC (amended)
Lifts & safety components for Lifts	2014/33/EU	95/16/EC (amended)
Equipment & protective systems for explosive atmospheres (ATEX)	2014/34/EU	94/9/EC (amended)
Low Voltage Directive (LVD)	2014/35/EU	2006/95/EC

# New Directives

✎ The Low Voltage Directive (LVD) 2006/95/EC is one of the oldest Single Market Directives adopted before the "New" or "Global" Approach.

- ✎ Conformity assessment procedure applied to equipment before placing on the Market
- ✎ Essential Health and Safety Requirements (EHSRs) - the equipment must meet either directly or by means of harmonized standards.

✎ The **Directive 2006/95/EC** was published in the OJEU on December 27, 2006.

- ✎ It entered into force on the 20th day following that of its publication, i.e. on **16 January 2007**.

The old Directive 73/23/EEC was repealed on the same date.

# Electrical Safety : Low Voltage Directive (LVD)



## & New Low Voltage Directive 2014/35/EU

On March 29, 2014, the recast of the Low Voltage Directive was published in the EU Official Journal L 96 under number 2014/35/EU.

Compared to the previous version 2006/95/EC, manufacturers and economic operators who place products on the European market face a number of changes.

There is a transitional period until April 20, 2016.

Until then, electrical products may still be placed on the EU market under the old Low Voltage Directive 2006/95/EC.

# New Low Voltage Directive

- ⌘ The Low Voltage Directive covers electrical equipment with a voltage between **50 and 1000 V** for alternating current and between **75 and 1500 V** for direct current.
- ⌘ Applies to equipment when placed on the market
  - ⌘ New electrical equipment made by a manufacturer established in the Union
  - ⌘ Electrical equipment, whether new or second-hand, imported from a third country
- ⌘ Voltage ratings refer to **the voltage of the electrical input or output**, not to voltages that may appear inside the equipment.
- ⌘ For most electrical equipment, the health aspects of emissions of Electromagnetic Fields are also under the domain of the Low Voltage Directive.

## LVD Scope

- ⌘ Electrical equipment for use in an explosive atmosphere
- ⌘ Electrical equipment for radiology and medical purposes
- ⌘ Electrical parts for goods and passenger lifts
- ⌘ Electricity meters
- ⌘ Plugs and socket outlets for domestic use
- ⌘ Electric fence controllers
- ⌘ Radio-electrical interference
- ⌘ Specialized electrical equipment, for use on ships, aircraft or railways, which complies with the safety provisions drawn up by international bodies in which the Member States participate.

## Products Not Covered

↳ Introductory information

↳ Divided into 5 Chapters, each covering a topic

↳ General Provisions

↳ Obligations of Economic Operators

↳ Conformity of the Electrical Equipment

↳ Union Market Surveillance, control of electrical Equipment Entering the Union Market, and Union Safeguard Procedure

↳ Committee, Transitional, and Final Provisions

↳ Additional 6 informational annexes

# Organization

## ↳ Defines each economic operator

- ↳ Manufacturer
- ↳ Authorized representative
- ↳ Importer
- ↳ Distributor

## ↳ Activities

- ↳ Making available on the market
- ↳ Placing on the market
- ↳ Conformity assessment
- ↳ Withdrawal
- ↳ Recall

## ↳ CE Marking

- ↳ Marking by which the manufacturer indicates that the equipment is in conformity

# Chapter 1 - Article 2 – New Definitions

## ⌘ Any economic operator

- ⌘ Who places the equipment on the market under his own trade name or trade mark or
- ⌘ Modifies the equipment where compliance may be impacted

## ⌘ Manufacturer is responsible for the compliance and to issue the EU DoC

# Who is the manufacturer?

## & Manufacturers

- ⌘ Requirements for series production
- ⌘ Register of complaints
- ⌘ Register of non-conforming equipment and recalls
- ⌘ Inform distributors

& Technical documentation kept for 10 years by each responsible operator

# Chapter 2 – Obligations of Economic Operators

🔗 Articles 6 – 11 - Extended obligations for manufacturers, representatives, importers and distributors to improve traceability of products:

- ⌘ Type, batch or serial number or other element of identification
- ⌘ Name, registered trade name or trade mark and postal address of manufacturer
- ⌘ For imports, name, registered trade name or trade mark and postal address of importer
- ⌘ Note that (8), encourages the use of a website address in addition to a postal address

# Obligations



## ⌘ Specified requirements on the conformity assessment procedure

- ⌘ First, apply the harmonized standards which have been published in the OJ
- ⌘ In case of absence of harmonized standards, safety requirements of IEC standards
- ⌘ If for the product no IEC standards are available, application of suitable national standards

## ⌘ Harmonized standards must take into account the United Nations Convention on the right of Persons with Disabilities

# Chapter 3 - Conformity

## ⌘ (9); Articles 16 & 17

Removed the requirement of support from notified body

⌘ Notes that no conformity assessment procedure requires the intervention of a Notified Body

⌘ EU DoC shall be translated into each Member State language where the equipment is placed on the market

# Chapter 3 - Conformity

- More detailed requirement of market surveillance
- Exchange of information on non-conforming product among Member states
- Compliant equipment which still presents a risk to the health or safety persons, or to domestic animals, or to property must be made to prevent that risk

## Chapter 4 – Market Surveillance

## & Committee Procedure

- ⌘ Establishes a Committee on Electrical Equipment

## & Penalties

- ⌘ Defers to Member States

## & Entry into force

- ⌘ 20 days after publishing

## & Transition

- ⌘ Allows current Directive to be used until April 20, 2016

## & Repeal

- ⌘ Directive 2006/95/EC repealed on April 20, 2016

# Chapter 5 - Provisions

## ↳ Annex I –

- ↳ Resistant to non-mechanical influences to not endanger persons, domestic animals, and property

## ↳ Annex II - Equipment outside of the scope

- ↳ Custom built evaluation kits destined for professionals to be used solely at research and development facilities for such purposes are now *exempt* from the Low Voltage Directive

## & Annex III

- ⌘ Additional requirements for preparation of technical documentation for “adequate analysis and assessment of the risk(s)”

## & Annex VI – Correlation Table

- ⌘ Correlates between 2006 and 2014 Directives

- ⌘ Europa – LVD
- ⌘ Europa – Blue Guide
- ⌘ UL – Recent Changes
- ⌘ UL – Gap Analysis Table
- ⌘ TÜV SÜD – The New Low Voltage Directive
- ⌘ SLG Prüf- und Zertifizierungs GmbH – New Low Voltage Directive
- ⌘ CE Marking Net – Eight CE Marking Directives Get New Reference Numbers

# Resources