

Does OSHA accept the "CE" mark or accept equipment certified by foreign testing organizations?

From the Series:

TUV informs you about the Hazards of Unlisted / Unlabeled Equipment

Often, jurisdictions and contractors are confronted with equipment that bears a CE-Mark. Some wonder what the CE-mark stands for and if it is acceptable as a proof that the equipment is listed or labeled by a Nationally Recognized testing Laboratory (NRTL) such as TUV Rheinland, UL or others?

Well, CE-mark is a European self-certification requirement and is not comparable with the NRTL listing as required by OSHA and the local jurisdictions (AHJ). The CE-mark does not comply with the National Electric Code (NEC) requirement for listed or labeled equipment, as per section 110.2 and 110.3.

The CE mark is a generic mark used in the European Union (EU) to indicate that a manufacturer has declared that the product meets requirements in the EU for product safety. The CE-mark basically states, "I, the manufacturer, herewith certify that MY Equipment complies with this (relevant) EUROPEAN standard". In the US, under OSHA's NRTL requirements, the product must have the specific mark of [one of the NRTLs](#) recognized to test and certify these types of products. Hence, the US requirement is for

1. **Third-Party Safety Certification** by an independent and OSHA accredited testing lab instead of a **voluntary self certification by the manufacturer**; and
2. Evaluation to an approved **US or Canadian (for Canada) standard** for safety of electrical equipment instead of compliance to a **European** standard.

The AHJ-Inspectors should be vigilant when approving the installation of electric systems. If AHJ-Inspectors see any CE-marked equipment, they should red-tag the equipment and seek an NRTL listing or a Third-Party field inspection by a capable NRTL. Even if the unit seems to be well manufactured, differences between the US / Canadian standards and the European standards may be quite significant and could possibly have safety implications. One such difference is the requirement of the standards that any lighting circuits within a unit may not exceed 150 VAC. The same requirement in European standards allows up to 250 VAC. In case a lamp requires replacement in the US and the operator / service personnel are not aware about it, an off-the-shelf lamp rated 115VAC may be used, that may cause hazards to the operators.

Since approval of non-compliant equipment that are unsafe to operate may cause hazards, litigation related costs and cause

significant hassle to the owners and the local jurisdiction, all are well advised to seek a Third-Party Field Evaluation of the CE-marked Equipment by a qualified NRTL such as TUV Rheinland.

TUV Offers:

We at TUV Rheinland are equipped with top-notch Engineers that are experienced with European and other internationally manufactured equipment. We will provide the jurisdictions with advice and answers to questions. TUV Rheinland will provide the customers competitive pricing, next-day service, which translates into one of the fastest turn-around times in the industry, a globally respected field label and pre-and post evaluation advice and guidance.

For further questions, please contact us at:

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