



EUROPEAN UNION IMPORTER'S LIABILITY

The aim of this document is to briefly inform about the responsibilities of anyone putting onto the EU market :

- a) welding, cutting and brazing equipment, and their accessories requiring CE marking ¹⁾; and
- b) welding and brazing consumable with or without requiring CE marking ²⁾.

Strong attention has to be drawn to duties – often underestimated or unknown – which must be borne by anyone importing from non-EU Countries, such goods to be then put onto the market either by using the importers own brand name or with the name of the non-European Manufacturer.

Not everybody is aware that the importer of such goods becomes solely liable of any European products specific regulations and directives infringement, thus bearing exactly the same duties which are the responsibility of those manufacturing such items in EU.

Therefore the importer will have the precise duty of granting the full compliance with the EU safety legislation (including CE marking, if applicable) of the product put onto the European market.

Practically an importer - after identifying all applicable EU legislation and the necessary requirements which the imported product once in the market must comply with - must ensure their compliance according to the conditions specified in the EU legislation (including CE marking, if applicable) and he must also grant such conformity with the additional duty of making available full documentary evidence of the analysis.

As a consequence the importer shall have to prepare a “Technical File” with all the necessary information to prove the product compliance with the applicable basic requirements. For equipment, the Technical Documentation has to be held at the disposal of the “Competent Authorities” for 10 years after the date of last input of the product onto the market.

Note 1: *For compliance of arc welding equipment, the Technical File must contain all the tests required by EN60974 standards, including the electromagnetic compatibility, harmonics, flicker, etc.*

Note 2: *CE marking on the packaging and/or accompanying documents according to harmonized standards is required for applications under the EU Directive 89/106/EEC on construction products. Compliance of welding consumables (including production control and verification of technical requirements) is assessed by a notified body according to the European Standards EN 13479 and parts 1 to 3 of EN 14532.*