CHECK THE MARK, OR BE IN THE DARK!

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In 2013, the UK Government adopted new European legislation which brought about key changes. The Construction Product Regulation (CPR) made it mandatory for companies to carry the new CE mark on relevant bathroom products.

1. The CE mark guarantees that the product has been assessed and that it is “fit for purpose” and demonstrates “European conformity to a harmonised standard”. It does not guarantee that the product is of a high quality.

2. The CPR requires that manufacturers and importers are responsible for the CE marking and that their products have a type, batch or serial number and technical documentation.

3. If consumers are uncertain regarding the legitimacy of the product, their concerns can be alleviated by making sure that the CE mark is present on the product packaging or on the supporting literature. If this is not the case, one should raise the issue immediately with your supplier.

4. All products should also be supplied with a Declaration of Performance (DoP) which details the actual performance characteristics of the product that have been verified. If the DoP is not supplied directly with the product, then a web reference on the CE label must be stated to enable a digital copy of the DoP to be obtained.

5. The DoP must at the very least be available on the manufactures website.

6. If companies/individuals fail to comply with the new regulations a series of penalties can result, such as manufacturers being forced into taking remedial actions or the withdrawing or recalling of the product.

The ramifications can lead to imprisonment for up to 3 months and/or a fine of up to £5,000 per incident.

Bathroom products that fall into this category are:

- Baths for domestic use including whirlpool baths
- Shower enclosures
- Bidets
- Urinals
- WC’s
- Shower trays
- Washbasins