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New Radio Equipment Directive for Products Sold in the EU

The EU's new Radio Equipment Directive (RED) becomes effective on June 13, 2016, and allows a one-year transition period.



During the transition period, both the current Radio & Telecommunication Terminal Equipment (R&TTE) Directive and the new RE-Directive may be used for radio products being placed on the EU market.

The RED scope is different to that of the R&TTE Directive, and the list of Harmonized Standards for examining the presumption of conformity to the RED has been updated.

How is the New RED Different from the R&TTE Directive?

- The RED applies to equipment that is placed on the market (this contrasts with the R&TTE Directive, which is also applied to relevant components of radio equipment).
- The RED applies to equipment which intentionally transmits or receives radio waves for communications or radiodetermination, regardless of its primary function. For example, a connected device that uses an embedded radio module for communications or to determine its position has to meet the same radio requirements as equipment built to function as a radio.
- Wired telecommunications terminal equipment that does not function using radio is not covered by the RED.
- Radio equipment covered by the RED is not subject to the Low-Voltage Directive (LVD) or the Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive (EMCD). The essential requirements of

those Directives are covered by the essential requirements of the RED, with certain modifications.

- The RED places additional emphasis on efficient and effective use of the spectrum. In particular, radio equipment needs to demonstrate the performance of its receiver, as well as its transmitter, as both are considered to effect the efficient and effective use of the spectrum.
- The RED applies to radio equipment operating at frequencies below 3,000 GHz, including radio equipment operating below 9 kHz that is not covered by the R&TTE Directive or by national frequency regulations.
- The RED also applies to radiodetermination equipment: equipment that uses the propagation qualities of radio waves to determine its position.
- The R&TTE Directive specifically excluded broadcast TV and radio receivers from its scope. These are now specifically included in the scope of the RED.

Additional European Regulations Coming into Effect in 2016:

- Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Directive 2014/30/EU applies from April 20, 2016
- Low Voltage Directive 2014/35/EU applies from April 20, 2016

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For further information, please contact an SGS expert.

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