

Independent Approvals – OASIS Watercoolers

Introduction

All electrical equipment sold in the European Union must carry the CE Mark. This is a legal requirement and guarantees to customers that a product meets all relevant safety standards.

There are a number of additional European Directives that have been implemented in recent years.

These govern the following areas:

Disposal of waste electrical & electronic equipment (WEEE Directive)

Restriction on use of hazardous materials (RoHS Directive)

Safety of plastic materials in contact with food

In addition to these compulsory requirements, there are a number of “voluntary” approvals that have been awarded to OASIS watercoolers. The purpose of this Technical Bulletin is to explain these approvals and show the advantages that they offer over the basic legal requirement of the CE Mark.

1. CE Mark for electrical safety
2. Polish Centre for Testing and Certification (PCBC)
3. CENELEC Certification Agreement
4. WEEE Directive
5. RoHS Directive
6. Safety of Plastic Materials
7. ISO 9001:2000

1. CE Mark for Electrical Safety

The CE mark was introduced for a wide range of products marketed within the European Union. For electrical products, such as watercoolers, it is a mark of a manufacturer’s self-declaration that the product meets the essential requirements of relevant EU directives relating to electrical safety. OASIS maintain a technical file on the product that can be made available for inspection to verify the validity of the CE mark.

2. PCBC

The Polish Centre for Testing and Certification (PCBC) mark (attached to the dataplate) guarantees that OASIS watercoolers have been rigorously tested by one of PCBC’s independent accredited laboratories to provide reassurance of safety in the areas of mechanical injury, burns and electric shock as well as compliance with specified European and International Standards.

The Polish Centre for Testing and Certification is a Polish certification agency that has been a member of the European CCA and CCA-EMC schemes (see below) since 1999.

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3. CENELEC Certification Agreement

The Polish Centre for Testing and Certification is a signatory to the CCA and CCA-EMC agreement for the full range of electrical appliances that includes OASIS watercoolers. Under CCA, European Approvals Bodies agree to accept each other's Test Reports for the purpose of approvals in their respective countries. Since PCBC have tested and approved OASIS watercoolers, this means that they can be sold in any country that is a member of the CCA without further product testing being required.

4. WEEE Directive

The WEEE Directive came into force on 15th August 2005 and is an attempt by the European Union to address the future cost of disposing of electrical and electronic waste at the end of its life.

There is still some confusion as to how the Directive will actually be implemented, but the main responsibilities of manufacturers are as follows:

- Label all new electrical equipment with crossed out wheelie bin label
- Use a tracking system of some kind so that the disposal of the cooler can be fully recorded by the relevant waste disposal companies

OASIS have registered with the relevant WEEE Registration Body in Ireland. At this time (September 2006), the legislation has not yet been implemented in Poland – as soon as this happens, OASIS will register with the relevant authority.

OASIS comply with all current requirements of the WEEE Directive.

5. RoHS Directive

On July 1st 2006, the member states of the European Union implemented directive 2002/95/EC. This directive places limits on the levels of certain materials (lead, cadmium, mercury, chromium, PBB and PBDE) that can be contained in any component used in the construction of electrical and electronic equipment. The placing on the market of any product that does not comply with this directive is prohibited.

To ensure compliance with this directive, the EBWA recommend each distributor should ensure that he obtains a signed declaration of conformity from the manufacturer of his water coolers stating that the products supplied comply with this Directive.

All products supplied by OASIS comply with this Directive

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6. Safety of Plastic Materials

Plastic materials in contact with food are regulated by EU Directive 2002/72/EC. This Directive replaces 90/128/EC and its seven amendments. This Directive gives details of all plastic materials that are authorized for use in contact with food.

For all water contact parts, OASIS only uses plastic materials that comply with this directive.

7. ISO 9001:2000 Certification

ISO 9001 is the most globally recognised Quality Management standard. Companies who obtain certification to this standard must show that they have procedures in place to control the design and production of their products, and the service that they provide to their customers. Both OASIS facilities in Europe (Ireland and Poland) are certified to this standard