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Industrial Transformation and Advanced Value Chains
Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing Systems

Guide to application of the Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC

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(Update of 2nd Edition)



DRAFT

Introduction to the update of the 2nd Edition

Directive 2006/42/EC is a revised version of the Machinery Directive, the first version of which was adopted in 1989. The new Machinery Directive has been applicable since 29th December 2009. The Directive has the dual aim of harmonising the health and safety requirements applicable to machinery on the basis of a high level of protection of health and safety, while ensuring the free circulation of machinery on the EU market. The revised Machinery Directive does not introduce radical changes compared with the previous versions. It clarifies and consolidates the provisions of the Directive with the aim of improving its practical application.

While, at the time, ~~the revised~~ Machinery Directive [2006/42/EC](#) was being discussed by the Council and the European Parliament, the Commission agreed to prepare a ~~new~~ Guide to its application. The purpose of the Guide is-being to provide explanations of the concepts and requirements of Directive 2006/42/EC in order to ensure uniform interpretation and application throughout the EU. The Guide also provides information about other related EU legislation. It is addressed to all of the parties involved in applying the Machinery Directive, including machinery manufacturers, importers and distributors, Notified Bodies, standardisers, occupational health and safety and consumer protection agencies and officials of the relevant national administrations and market surveillance authorities. It may also be of interest to lawyers and to students of EU law in the fields of the internal market, occupational health and safety and consumer protection.

It should be stressed that only the Machinery Directive and the texts implementing its provisions into national law are legally binding.

The 2nd Edition of the Guide was endorsed by the Machinery Committee on 2 June 2010. In comparison with the 1st Edition, it was completed with comments on Annexes III to XI of the Machinery Directive. Some errors noticed by readers have been corrected. Legal references and terms have been updated in line with the Lisbon Treaty - in particular, where the Directive refers to 'the Community', the Guide now refers to 'the EU'.

Following discussion with the industry, the comments relating to chains, ropes and webbing for lifting purposes in §44, §330, § 340, §341, and §357 have been revised in order to clarify the practical application of the requirements relating to these products.

The 2nd Edition also includes a thematic index to facilitate consultation of the Guide. The numbering of the sections of the Guide is unchanged.

The Guide takes account of the amendment to Directive 2006/42/EC introduced by Regulation (EC) No 569/2009 relating to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny for the Machinery Committee. It also takes account of the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 relating to market surveillance, which apply in a complementary way.

The 1st ~~Update to the 2nd Edition of the Guide~~ (~~–further named Edition 2.1~~), has been completed to include the amendments made to the Machinery Directive by the Directive 2009/127/EC on Pesticide Equipment and the Regulation (EU) No 167/2013 on the approval and market surveillance of agricultural and forestry vehicles (Tractors). In addition, guidance on “partly completed machinery” and “assemblies” has been added, as well as inserting clarifications and corrections to the concepts of “safety components”, “new and used machinery”, “marking of machinery”. A number of key guidance decisions of the Machinery Working Group have been incorporated into this text.

~~This The 2nd Update to the 2nd Edition of the Guide (Edition 2.2), further named Edition 2.2, contains contained~~ a number of clarifications and corrections to the concepts of “safety components” and “partly completed machinery”, and some edits to ensure coherence with the LVD Guide. There are two newly added paragraphs about the machinery control units (§417) and safety components which are considered to be logic units (§418).

~~This 3rd update (Edition 2.3) contains clarifications on instructions for use and EC Declaration of Conformity when provided in digital format.~~

The Guide is published on the Commission’s Website EUROPA¹ in English. This updated Edition 2.2-3 is intended to be a living document, edited and updated with new guidance once approved by the Machinery Working Group. It might be made available in other EU languages, but only the English version will be checked by the Commission. Therefore, in case of doubt, the English version should be taken as the reference.

The Guide can be downloaded and is presented in a printable format. The text of the Directive is presented in boxed red italic type - the comments follow in black type.

The Guide has been prepared with the help of an Editorial Group². The previous ~~Update updates~~ of the 2nd Edition ~~has-have~~ been carried out by ~~the Commission, assisted by members of the Editorial Group plus –an– external consultancy³ and the Commission, assisted by some of the members of the Editorial Group~~. This update has been ~~carried out~~ prepared by the Commission services based on the input from the ~~Commission Expert Group on Machinery Editorial Group~~. ~~The Commission⁴ wishes to warmly thank the members of the Editorial Group both for the huge amount of work they have carried out as well as for the efficient, constructive and cooperative spirit in which the drafts~~

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/mechanical-engineering/machinery_en

² The following people have taken part in the work of the Editorial Group: Lennart Ahnström, Emilio Borzelli, Robert Chudzik, Roberto Cianotti, John Colreavy, Mike Dodds, Cosette Dussaugey, Marcel Dutrieux, Pascal Etienne, Ludwig Finkeldei, Gun Fridfelt, Mikael Holst, Tuiro Kerttula, Andreas Kühn, Thomas Kraus, Patrick Kurtz, Kevin Lane, Leila Martin, Wolfgang Lentsch, Göran Lundmark, Thomas Moessner, Anders Mortensen, Phil Papard, Boguslaw Piasecki, Marc Schulze, Katri Tytykoski, Roger Upfold, Wendy Van Aerschot, Gustaaf Vandegaer, Henk van Eeden, Richard Wilson, Jürg Zwicky.

³ Phil Papard Consulting.

⁴ ~~The Commission representatives: Ian Fraser (until 2013), Felicia Stoica, Mario Gabrielli Cossellu, and Mikhail Simonov.~~

~~have been prepared. In parallel to the work of the Editorial Group, a Machinery Core Group established by Orgalime, including representatives of the main sectors of machinery manufacturing, has provided invaluable input from the industry. The drafts prepared by the Editorial Group have been submitted to the Member States and stakeholders for comments. The Commission would also like to thank all those who have made comments. We have tried to take them into account as far as possible.~~

~~Of course, †The Commission services takes full responsibility~~ are responsible for the content of the Guide. Users Readers are invited to ~~communicate~~ inform the authors about any comments and necessary ~~corrections or comments~~⁵ so that they can be taken into account in preparing future updates or a revised 3rd Edition.

Brussels, ~~October 2019~~ November 2023

⁵ Corrections, comments and suggestions for improvement should be addressed to the functional e-mail box: GROW-MACHINERY@ec.europa.eu.

Table of contents

The Citations

- § 1 *The citations*
§ 2 *The legal basis of the Machinery Directive*

The Recitals

- § 3 *The recitals*
Recital 1 § 4 *The History of the Machinery Directive*
Recital 2 § 5 *The economic and social importance of the Machinery Directive*
Recital 3 § 6 *Health and safety*
Recital 4 § 7 *Definitions*
Recital 5 § 8 *Inclusion of construction site hoists*
Recital 6 § 9 *Inclusion of portable cartridge-operated fixing and other impact machinery*
Recital 7 §10 *Equipment intended for lifting persons with machinery designed for lifting goods*
Recital 8 §11 *Agricultural and forestry tractors*
Recitals 9 & 10 §12 *Market surveillance*
Recital 11 §13 *Formal objection to standards and the safeguard clause*
Recital 12 §14 *Regulations on use of machinery*
Recital 13 §15 *Measures to deal with groups of hazardous machinery presenting the same risks*
Recital 14 §16 *The state of the art*
Recital 15 §17 *Machinery for consumer use*
Recital 16 §18 *Partly completed machinery*
Recital 17 §19 *Trade fairs and exhibitions*
Recital 18 §20 *The New Approach and the New Legislative Framework*
Recital 19 §21 *Conformity assessment*
Recital 20 §22 *Annex IV machinery*
Recitals 21 & 22 §23 *The CE-marking*
Recital 23 §24 *Risk assessment*
Recital 24 §25 *The technical construction file*
Recital 25 §26 *Legal remedies*
Recital 26 §27 *Enforcement*
Recital 27 §28 *Amendment of the Lifts Directive*
Recital 28 §29 *Subsidiarity and proportionality*
Recital 29 §30 *National correlation tables*
Recital 30 §31 *The Machinery Committee*

The Articles

- Article 1 (1) §32 *The products covered by the Machinery Directive*
Article 2 §33 *The use of the term 'machinery' in the broad sense*
Article 1 (a) §34 *Machinery in the strict sense*
Articles 1 (a) & 2 (a) §35 *The basic definition*
1st indent
2nd indent §36 *Machinery supplied without connection components*
3rd indent §37 *Machinery to be installed on a specific support*
4th indent §38 *Assemblies of machinery*
§39 *Assemblies comprising new and existing machinery*
5th indent §40 *Manually powered machinery for lifting loads*
Articles 1 (b) & 2 (b) §41 *Interchangeable equipment*
Articles 1 (c) & 2 (c) §42 *Safety components*

Articles 1 (d) & 2 (d)	§43	<i>Lifting accessories</i>
Articles 1 (e) & 2 (e)	§44	<i>Chains, ropes and webbing</i>
Articles 1 (f) & 2 (f)	§45	<i>Removable mechanical transmission devices</i>
Articles 1 (g) & 2 (g)	§46	<i>Partly completed machinery</i>
Article 1 (2)	§47	<i>Products excluded from the scope of the Machinery Directive</i>
Article 1 (2) (a)	§48	<i>Safety components intended to be used as spare parts to replace identical components and supplied by the manufacturer of the original machinery</i>
Article 1 (2) (b)	§49	<i>Equipment for use in fairgrounds and/or amusement parks</i>
Article 1 (2) (c)	§50	<i>Machinery for nuclear purposes</i>
Article 1 (2) (d)	§51	<i>Weapons, including firearms</i>
Article 1 (2) (e)	§52	<i>Means of transport</i>
1st indent	§53	<i>Agricultural and forestry tractors</i>
2nd indent	§54	<i>Four-or-more-wheeled road vehicles and their trailers</i>
3rd indent	§55	<i>Two- and three-wheeled road vehicles</i>
4th indent	§56	<i>Motor vehicles intended for competition</i>
5th indent	§57	<i>Means of transport by air, on water and on rail networks</i>
Article 1 (2) (f)	§58	<i>Seagoing vessels and mobile offshore units and machinery installed on board such vessels and/or units</i>
Article 1 (2) (g)	§59	<i>Machinery for military or police purposes</i>
Article 1 (2) (h)	§60	<i>Machinery for research purposes</i>
Article 1 (2) (i)	§61	<i>Mine winding gear</i>
Article 1 (2) (j)	§62	<i>Machinery intended to move performers during artistic performances</i>
Article 1 (2) (k)	§63	<i>Machinery covered by the Low Voltage Directive</i>
1st indent	§64	<i>Household appliances intended for domestic use</i>
2nd indent	§65	<i>Audio and video equipment</i>
3rd indent	§66	<i>Information technology equipment</i>
4th indent	§67	<i>Ordinary office machinery</i>
5th indent	§68	<i>Low-voltage switchgear and control gear</i>
6th indent	§69	<i>Electric motors</i>
Article 1 (2) (l)	§70	<i>High-voltage electrical equipment</i>
Article 2 (h)	§71	<i>The definition of 'placing on the market'</i>
	§72	<i>New and used machinery</i>
	§73	<i>The stage at which the Machinery Directive applies</i>
	§74	<i>The legal and contractual forms of placing on the market</i>
	§75	<i>Auctions</i>
	§76	<i>Placing on the market of assemblies of machinery</i>
	§77	<i>Placing on the market of partly completed machinery</i>
Article 2 (i)	§78	<i>The definition of 'manufacturer'</i>
	§79	<i>Who is the manufacturer?</i>
	§80	<i>A person manufacturing machinery for his own use</i>
	§81	<i>Other persons who may be considered as manufacturers</i>
	§82	<i>Machinery modified before it is first put into service</i>
	§83	<i>Distributors</i>
Article 2 (j)	§84	<i>The possibility to appoint an authorised representative</i>
	§85	<i>The tasks of an authorised representative</i>
Article 2 (k)	§86	<i>The definition of 'putting into service'</i>
Article 2 (l)	§87	<i>The definition of 'harmonised standard'</i>
	§88	<i>Essential health and safety requirements</i>
Article 3	§89	<i>The Machinery Directive and other internal market legislation</i>
	§90	<i>Specific EU legislation that apply instead of the Machinery Directive to machinery that is in their scope</i>
	§91	<i>Specific EU legislation that may apply to machinery instead of the Machinery Directive for specific hazards</i>
	§92	<i>EU legislation that may apply to machinery, in addition to the</i>

Machinery Directive, for hazards they cover more specifically than the Machinery Directive

Article 4 (1)	§93	<i>Market surveillance</i>
	§94	<i>Market surveillance of machinery</i>
Article 4 (2)	§95	<i>Market surveillance of partly completed machinery</i>
Article 4 (3) & (4)	§96	<i>Market surveillance authorities</i>
	§97	<i>The market surveillance system</i>
	§98	<i>The tools for market surveillance</i>
	§99	<i>Documents relating to Annex IV machinery</i>
	§100	<i>Action to deal with non-compliant machinery</i>
	§101	<i>Unsafe consumer products</i>
	§102	<i>Controls at the external borders of the EU</i>
Article 5 (1)	§103	<i>The obligations of machinery manufacturers</i>
Article 5 (2)	§104	<i>The obligations of manufacturers of partly completed machinery</i>
Article 5 (3)	§105	<i>Means of ensuring the conformity of machinery</i>
Article 5 (4)	§106	<i>CE marking according to other EU Legislation</i>
Article 6 (1) & (2)	§107	<i>Free movement of machinery and partly completed machinery</i>
Article 6 (3)	§108	<i>Trade fairs, exhibitions and demonstrations</i>
Article 7 (1)	§109	<i>Presumption of conformity conferred by the CE marking and the EC Declaration of Conformity</i>
Article 7 (2)	§110	<i>The presumption of conformity conferred by the application of harmonised standards</i>
	§111	<i>The classification of machinery standards</i>
	§112	<i>The development of harmonised standards for machinery</i>
	§113	<i>The identification of harmonised standards</i>
Article 7 (3)	§114	<i>Publication of the references of harmonised standards in the OJEU</i>
Article 7 (4)	§115	<i>Participation of the social partners in standardisation</i>
Article 8 (1)	§116	<i>Measures subject to the Regulatory Committee Procedure</i>
Article 8 (2)	§117	<i>Measures subject to the Advisory Committee procedure</i>
Article 9	§118	<i>Measures to deal with unsafe machinery presenting similar risks</i>
Article 10	§119	<i>Formal objections to harmonised standards</i>
	§120	<i>The procedure for formal objections</i>
	§121	<i>The outcome of a formal objection</i>
Article 11 (1)	§122	<i>The safeguard clause</i>
Article 11 (2) & (3)	§123	<i>The safeguard procedure</i>
Article 11 (4)	§124	<i>Shortcomings in harmonised standards</i>
Article 11 (5)	§125	<i>Action against the person who has affixed the CE marking</i>
Article 11 (6)	§126	<i>Information on the safeguard procedure</i>
Article 12 (1)	§127	<i>Conformity assessment of machinery</i>
Article 12 (2)	§128	<i>Categories of machinery not listed in Annex IV</i>
Article 12 (3)	§129	<i>Annex IV machinery designed to harmonised standards that cover all the applicable essential health and safety requirements</i>
Article 12 (4)	§130	<i>Other Annex IV machinery</i>
Article 13	§131	<i>Procedure for partly completed machinery</i>
	§132	<i>Diagram of the procedures for the placing on the market of machinery and partly completed machinery</i>
Article 14 (1) to (5)	§133	<i>Notified Bodies</i>
	§134	<i>Assessment and monitoring of Notified Bodies</i>
Article 14 (6)	§135	<i>Withdrawal of certificates or decisions issued by Notified Bodies</i>
Article 14 (7)	§136	<i>Exchange of experience between the notifying authorities</i>

Article 14 (8)	§137 <i>The coordination of Notified Bodies</i> §138 <i>Withdrawal of notification</i>
Article 15	§139 <i>National regulations on the installation and use of machinery</i> §140 <i>National regulations on the health and safety of workers</i>
Article 16	§141 <i>The CE marking</i>
Article 17	§142 <i>Non conformity of marking</i>
Article 18	§143 <i>Confidentiality and transparency</i>
Article 19	§144 <i>Machinery AdCo Group</i>
Article 20	§145 <i>Reasons for decisions and appeals</i>
Article 21	§146 <i>Information sources</i>
Article 22	§147 <i>The Machinery Committee</i> §148 <i>The Machinery Working Group</i> §149 <i>Diagram of institutions dealing with the Machinery Directive</i>
Article 23	§150 <i>Penalties for infringements against the provisions of the Directive</i>
Article 24	§151 <i>The borderline between the Machinery Directive and the Lifts Directive</i>
Article 25	§152 <i>Repeal of Directive 98/37/EC</i>
Article 26	§153 <i>Transposition and application of the provisions of the Directive</i>
Article 27	§154 <i>Transition period for portable cartridge operated fixing and other impact machinery</i>
Article 28	§155 <i>Date of entry into force of the Directive</i>
Article 29	§156 <i>Addressees and signatories of the Directive</i>

Annex I

Essential health and safety requirements relating to the design and construction of machinery

General Principles	§157 <i>The General Principles</i>
General Principle 1	§158 <i>Risk assessment</i> §159 <i>Risk assessment and harmonised standards</i>
General Principle 2	§160 <i>The applicability of the essential health and safety requirements</i>
General Principle 3	§161 <i>The state of the art</i> §162 <i>Harmonised standards and the state of the art</i>
General Principle 4	§163 <i>The structure of Annex I</i>
1.1.1 Definitions	
1.1.1 (a)	§164 <i>Hazard</i>
1.1.1 (b)	§165 <i>Danger zone</i>
1.1.1 (c)	§166 <i>Exposed person</i>
1.1.1 (d)	§167 <i>Operator</i>
1.1.1 (e)	§168 <i>Risk</i>
1.1.1 (f)	§169 <i>Guard</i>
1.1.1 (g)	§170 <i>Protective devices</i>
1.1.1 (h)	§171 <i>Intended use</i>
1.1.1 (i)	§172 <i>Reasonably foreseeable misuse</i>
1.1.2 Principles of safety integration	
1.1.2 (a)	§173 <i>Principles of safety integration</i>
1.1.2 (b)	§174 <i>The 3-step method</i>

1.1.2 (c)	§175	<i>Preventing abnormal use</i>
1.1.2 (d)	§176	<i>Constraints due to the use of PPE</i>
1.1.2 (e)	§177	<i>Special equipment and accessories</i>
1.1.3	§178	<i>Materials and products used</i>
1.1.4	§179	<i>Integral lighting</i>
1.1.5	§180	<i>Handling of machinery and parts of machinery</i>
1.1.6	§181	<i>Ergonomic principles</i>
1.1.7	§182	<i>Operating positions in hazardous environments</i>
1.1.8	§183	<i>Seating and the provision of seats</i>

1.2 Control systems

1.2.1	§184	<i>Safety and reliability of control systems</i>
1.2.2	§185	<i>Control devices</i>
1.2.2 – 1 st indent	§186	<i>Identification of control devices</i>
1.2.2 – 2 nd indent	§187	<i>Positioning of control devices</i>
1.2.2 – 3 rd indent	§188	<i>Movement of control devices</i>
1.2.2 – 4 th & 5 th indents	§189	<i>Location and positioning of control devices</i>
1.2.2 – 6 th indent	§190	<i>Preventing inadvertent operation of control devices</i>
1.2.2 – 7 th indent	§191	<i>Strength of control devices</i>
1.2.2 – 2 nd para.	§192	<i>Control devices to perform different actions</i>
1.2.2 – 3 rd para.	§193	<i>Control devices and ergonomic principles</i>
1.2.2 – 4 th para.	§194	<i>Indicators and displays</i>
1.2.2 – 5 th & 6 th paras.	§195	<i>Visibility of danger zones during starting</i>
1.2.2 – 7 th para.	§196	<i>Location of control positions</i>
1.2.2 – 8 th para.	§197	<i>Multiple control positions</i>
1.2.2 - last para.	§198	<i>Multiple operating positions</i>
1.2.3	§199	<i>Control of starting</i>
1.2.4.1	§200	<i>Normal stop control devices</i>
1.2.4.2	§201	<i>Operational stop</i>
1.2.4.3	§202	<i>Emergency stop devices</i>
1.2.4.4	§203	<i>Stop controls for assemblies of machinery</i>
1.2.5	§204	<i>Mode selection</i>
1.2.6	§205	<i>Failure of the power supply</i>

1.3 Protection against mechanical hazards

1.3.1	§206	<i>Stability</i>
1.3.2	§207	<i>Break-up during operation</i>
1.3.3	§208	<i>Falling or ejected objects</i>
1.3.4	§209	<i>Sharp edges and angles and rough surfaces</i>
1.3.5	§210	<i>Combined machinery</i>
1.3.6	§211	<i>Variations in operating conditions</i>
1.3.7	§212	<i>Moving parts</i>
1.3.8.1	§213	<i>Moving transmission parts</i>
1.3.8.2	§214	<i>Moving parts involved in the process</i>
1.3.9	§215	<i>Uncontrolled movements</i>

1.4 Required characteristics of guards and protective devices

1.4.1	§216	<i>General requirements for guards and protective devices</i>
1.4.2	§217	<i>Special requirements for guards</i>
1.4.2.1	§218	<i>Fixed guards</i>
1.4.2.2	§219	<i>Interlocking movable guards</i>
1.4.2.3	§220	<i>Adjustable guards restricting access</i>
1.4.3	§221	<i>Protective devices</i>

1.5 Risks due to other hazards

1.5.1	§222	<i>Electricity</i>
1.5.2	§223	<i>Unwanted static electricity</i>
1.5.3	§224	<i>Energy supply other than electricity</i>
1.5.4	§225	<i>Errors of fitting</i>
1.5.5	§226	<i>Extreme temperatures</i>
1.5.6	§227	<i>Fire</i>
1.5.7	§228	<i>Explosion</i>
1.5.8	§229	<i>Reduction of noise emission</i>
1.5.8 – 2 nd para.	§230	<i>Comparative emission data</i>
1.5.9	§231	<i>Vibrations</i>
1.5.10	§232	<i>Ionising and non-ionising radiation</i>
1.5.11	§233	<i>External radiation</i>
1.5.12	§234	<i>Laser radiation</i>
1.5.13	§235	<i>Emissions of hazardous materials and substances</i>
1.5.14	§236	<i>Risk of being trapped</i>
1.5.15	§237	<i>Slips, trips and falls</i>
1.5.16	§238	<i>Lightning</i>
1.6		Maintenance
1.6.1	§239	<i>Maintenance</i>
1.6.2	§240	<i>Access to operating positions and servicing points</i>
1.6.3	§241	<i>Isolation of energy sources</i>
1.6.4	§242	<i>Operator intervention</i>
1.6.5	§243	<i>Cleaning of internal parts</i>
1.7		Information
1.7.1	§244	<i>Information for users</i>
1.7.1	§245	<i>Information and warnings on the machinery</i>
	§246	<i>The official languages of the EU</i>
1.7.1.1	§247	<i>Information and information devices</i>
1.7.1.2	§248	<i>Warning devices</i>
1.7.2	§249	<i>Warning of residual risks</i>
1.7.3 – 1 st & 2 nd paras.	§250	<i>Marking of machinery</i>
1.7.3 – 3 rd para.	§251	<i>Conformity marking for ATEX machinery</i>
1.7.3 – 4 th para.	§252	<i>Information essential for safe use</i>
1.7.3 - last para.	§253	<i>Marking parts of the machinery to be handled with lifting equipment</i>
1.7.4	§254	<i>Instructions</i>
	§255	<i>The form of the instructions</i>
	§256	<i>The language of the instructions</i>
1.7.4.1 (a) & (b)	§257	<i>The drafting and translation of instructions</i>
1.7.4.1 (c)	§258	<i>Preventing foreseeable misuse</i>
1.7.4.1 (d)	§259	<i>Instructions for non-professional users</i>
1.7.4.2 (a) & (b)	§260	<i>Contents of the instructions – particulars of the machinery and the manufacturer</i>
1.7.4.2 (c)	§261	<i>Inclusion of the EC Declaration of Conformity in the instructions</i>
1.7.4.2 (d) (e) & (f)	§262	<i>Descriptions, drawings, diagrams and explanations</i>
1.7.4.2 (g) & (h)	§263	<i>Intended use and foreseeable misuse</i>
1.7.4.2 (i) & (j)	§264	<i>Assembly, installation and connection</i>
1.7.4.2 (k)	§265	<i>Putting into service and use</i>
	§266	<i>Operator training</i>
1.7.4.2 (l) & (m)	§267	<i>Information about residual risks</i>
1.7.4.2 (n)	§268	<i>The essential characteristics of tools</i>
1.7.4.2 (o)	§269	<i>Stability conditions</i>
1.7.4.2 (p)	§270	<i>Transport, handling and storage</i>
1.7.4.2 (q)	§271	<i>Emergency procedures and methods for unblocking</i>
1.7.4.2 (r) (s) & (t)	§272	<i>Adjustment, maintenance and spare parts</i>
1.7.4.2 (u)	§273	<i>The noise emission declaration</i>

- 1.7.4.2 (v) §274 *Implantable medical devices*
- 1.7.4.3 §275 *Sales literature*

2 Supplementary essential health and safety requirements for certain categories of machinery

- 2.1.1 §276 *Supplementary requirements for certain categories of machinery*
- §277 *Hygiene requirements for machinery intended for use with foodstuffs or with cosmetics or pharmaceutical products*
- 2.2.1 §278 *Supplementary requirements for portable hand-held and hand-guided machinery*
- 2.2.1.1 §279 *Declaration of vibrations transmitted by portable hand-held and hand-guided machinery*
- 2.2.2 §280 *Portable fixing and other impact machinery*
- 2.3 §281 *Machinery for working wood and material with similar characteristics*
- 2.4.1 §282 *Machinery for pesticide application*
- 2.4.2 §283 *Preventing unintended exposure of the environment*
- 2.4.3 §284 *Controls and monitoring by the operator*
- 2.4.4 §285 *Design to facilitate correct filling and emptying and avoid contamination*
- 2.4.5 §286 *Application of pesticides, to ensure its correct rate, avoid drift and test to be performed by manufacturer*
- 2.4.5.4 §287 *Prevention of losses when machine is stopped*
- 2.4.6 & 2.4.7 §288 *Design to ensure easy and thorough cleaning, servicing and checking*
- 2.4.8 & 2.4.9 §289 *Marking of nozzles, strainers and filters and the provision of means to affix the name of the pesticide in use*
- 2.4.10 §290 *Instructions on precautions, use, inspections, calibration, maintenance etc.*

3 Supplementary essential health and safety requirements to offset hazards due to the mobility of machinery

- §291 *Supplementary requirements for hazards due to mobility of machinery*
- 3.1.1 (a) §292 *Definition of 'hazards due to mobility'*
- 3.1.1 (b) §293 *Definition of 'driver'*
- 3.2.1 §294 *Driving position*
- 3.2.2 §295 *Seating*
- 3.2.3 §296 *Positions for persons other than the driver*
- 3.3 - 1st paragraph §297 *Unauthorised use of controls*
- 3.3 - 2nd, 3rd & 4th paras. §298 *Remote controls*
- 3.3.1 - 1st para. §299 *Location and positioning of the control devices*
- 3.3.1 - 2nd para. §300 *Pedals*
- 3.3.1 - 3rd para. §301 *Return to neutral*
- 3.3.1 - 4th & 5th para. §302 *Steering*
- 3.3.1 - last para. §303 *Reverse warning signals*
- 3.3.2 - 1st para. §304 *Control of travel movements by a ride-on driver*
- 3.3.2 - 2nd, 3rd & 4th para. §305 *Devices exceeding the normal clearance zone*
- 3.3.2 - last para. §306 *Unintended travel movement*
- 3.3.3 - 1st, 2nd & 3rd para. §307 *Slowing down, stopping and immobilisation*
- §308 *Regulations for road circulation*
- 3.3.3 - 4th para. §309 *Stopping and controlling potentially dangerous operation by remote control*
- 3.3.3 - last para. §310 *Stopping of the travelling function*
- 3.3.4 §311 *Movement of pedestrian-controlled machinery*
- 3.3.5 §312 *Failure in the power supply to steering*
- 3.4.1 §313 *Uncontrolled movements*
- 3.4.2 §314 *Access to the engine compartment*
- 3.4.3 §315 *Roll-over and tip-over*

3.4.4	§316	<i>Falling objects</i>
3.4.5	§317	<i>Steps and handholds for access</i>
3.4.6	§318	<i>Towing devices</i>
3.4.7	§319	<i>Removable mechanical transmission devices</i>
3.5.1	§320	<i>Batteries</i>
3.5.2	§321	<i>Fire extinguishers and extinguisher systems</i>
3.5.3	§322	<i>Protection of sprayer operators against risks due to exposure to hazardous substances</i>
3.6.1	§323	<i>Signs, signals and warnings</i>
3.6.2	§324	<i>Marking of mobile machinery</i>
3.6.3.1	§325	<i>Declaration of vibrations transmitted by mobile machinery</i>
3.6.3.2	§326	<i>Instructions on multiple uses</i>
4		Supplementary essential health and safety requirements to offset hazards due to lifting operations
	§327	<i>The scope of application of Part 4</i>
4.1.1 (a)	§328	<i>Lifting operation</i>
4.1.1 (b)	§329	<i>Guided load</i>
4.1.1 (c)	§330	<i>Working coefficient</i>
4.1.1 (d)	§331	<i>Test coefficient</i>
4.1.1 (e)	§332	<i>Static test</i>
4.1.1 (f)	§333	<i>Dynamic test</i>
4.1.1 (g)	§334	<i>Carrier</i>
4.1.2.1	§335	<i>Risks due to lack of stability</i>
4.1.2.2	§336	<i>Rail tracks and guide rails</i>
4.1.2.3 – 1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd para.	§337	<i>Mechanical strength</i>
4.1.2.3 – 4 th para.	§338	<i>Mechanical strength – static test coefficients</i>
4.1.2.3 - last para.	§339	<i>Mechanical strength – dynamic test coefficients</i>
4.1.2.4	§340	<i>Pulleys, drums, wheels, ropes and chains</i>
4.1.2.5	§341	<i>Lifting accessories and their components</i>
4.1.2.6	§342	<i>Control of movements</i>
4.1.2.7	§343	<i>Prevention of risks of collisions</i>
4.1.2.8	§344	<i>Machinery serving fixed landings</i>
4.1.2.8.1	§345	<i>Movements of the carrier</i>
4.1.2.8.2	§346	<i>Access to the carrier</i>
4.1.2.8.3	§347	<i>Contact with the moving carrier</i>
4.1.2.8.4	§348	<i>Loads falling off the carrier</i>
4.1.2.8.5	§349	<i>Safety at landings</i>
4.1.3	§350	<i>Checking fitness for purpose</i>
	§351	<i>Static and dynamic tests</i>
	§352	<i>Checking fitness for purpose at the place of use</i>
4.2.1	§353	<i>Control of movements of the machinery and the load</i>
4.2.2	§354	<i>Preventing overloading and overturning</i>
	§355	<i>Loading control on industrial lift trucks</i>
4.2.3	§356	<i>Guide ropes</i>
4.3.1	§357	<i>Information and markings for chains, ropes and webbing</i>
4.3.2	§358	<i>Marking of lifting accessories</i>
4.3.3	§359	<i>Marking of lifting machinery</i>
4.4.1	§360	<i>Instructions for lifting accessories</i>
4.4.2	§361	<i>Instructions for lifting machinery</i>
5		Supplementary essential health and safety requirements for machinery intended for underground work
	§362	<i>Supplementary requirements for machinery intended for underground work</i>
5.1 & 5.2	§363	<i>Powered roof supports</i>
5.3	§364	<i>Control devices</i>

5.4	§365	<i>Control of travel movements</i>
5.5	§366	<i>The risk of fire on machinery for underground work</i>
5.6	§367	<i>Exhaust emissions</i>
6	Supplementary essential health and safety requirements for machinery presenting particular hazards due to the lifting of persons	
	§368	<i>Scope of Part 6</i>
6.1.1	§369	<i>Mechanical strength</i>
6.1.2	§370	<i>Loading control</i>
6.2	§371	<i>Control devices</i>
6.3.1	§372	<i>Movement of the carrier</i>
6.3.2 – 1 st para.	§373	<i>Tilt of the carrier</i>
6.3.2 – 2 nd & 3 rd para.	§374	<i>Use of the carrier as a workstation</i>
6.3.2 - last para.	§375	<i>Doors on the carrier</i>
6.3.3	§376	<i>Protective roof</i>
6.4	§377	<i>Machinery for lifting persons serving fixed landings</i>
6.4.1	§378	<i>Risks to persons in or on the carrier</i>
6.4.2	§379	<i>Controls at landings</i>
6.4.3	§380	<i>Access to the carrier</i>
6.5	§381	<i>Markings in the carrier</i>

**ANNEX II
Declarations**

Annex II 1 A	§382	<i>The EC Declaration of Conformity of machinery</i>
Annex II 1 A (1) to (10)	§383	<i>The content of the EC Declaration of Conformity</i>
Annex II 1 B	§384	<i>The Declaration of Incorporation of partly completed machinery</i>
Annex II 1 B (1) to (8)	§385	<i>The content of the Declaration of Incorporation</i>
Annex II 2	§386	<i>Custody of the EC Declaration of Conformity and the Declaration of Incorporation</i>

**ANNEX III
CE marking**

Annex III	§387	<i>The form of the CE marking</i>
-----------	------	-----------------------------------

**ANNEX IV
Categories of machinery
to which one of the procedures referred to in Article 12 (3) and (4) must be applied**

Annex IV	§388	<i>Categories of machinery that may be subject to one of the conformity assessment procedures involving a Notified Body</i>
----------	------	---

**ANNEX V
Indicative list of safety components referred to in Article 2 (c)**

Annex V	§389	<i>Indicative list of safety components</i>
---------	------	---

**ANNEX VI
Assembly instructions for partly completed machinery**

Annex VI	§390	<i>Assembly instructions for partly completed machinery</i>
----------	------	---

**ANNEX VII
Technical file for machinery - Relevant technical documentation for partly completed machinery**

Annex VII A	§391	<i>Technical file for machinery</i>
Annex VII A 1 (a) & (b)	§392	<i>The content of the technical file</i>
Annex VII A 2 & 3	§393	<i>Communication of the technical file</i>
Annex VII B	§394	<i>Relevant technical documentation for partly completed machinery</i>

ANNEX VIII

Assessment of conformity with internal checks on the manufacture of machinery

Annex VIII	§395	<i>Assessment of conformity with internal checks on the manufacture of the machinery</i>
-------------------	-------------	--

ANNEX IX EC type-examination

Annex IX 1	§396	<i>EC type-examination</i>
Annex IX 2	§397	<i>The application for an EC type examination</i>
Annex IX 3	§398	<i>The content of the EC type-examination</i>
Annex IX 4 to 8	§399	<i>The EC type-examination certificate</i>
Annex IX 9	§400	<i>Validity and review of the EC type-examination certificate</i>

ANNEX X Full quality assurance

Annex X 1	§401	<i>Full quality assurance</i>
Annex X 2.1	§402	<i>The application for assessment of a full quality assurance system</i>
Annex X 2.2	§403	<i>The objectives and content of the full quality assurance system</i>
Annex X 2.3	§404	<i>Assessment of the full quality assurance system</i>
Annex X 2.4	§405	<i>Implementation and modification of the full quality assurance system</i>
Annex X 3	§406	<i>Surveillance of the full quality assurance system</i>
Annex X 4	§407	<i>Custody of the documentation, decisions and reports relating to the full quality assurance system</i>

ANNEX XI

Minimum criteria to be taken into account by Member States for the notification of bodies

Annex XI	§408	<i>Assessment of Notified Bodies</i>
-----------------	-------------	--------------------------------------

Specific guidance documents

	§411	<i>Safety fences as safety components under the Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC</i>
	§412	<i>Classification of equipment used for lifting loads with lifting machinery</i>
	§413	<i>Emergency stop devices</i>
	§414	<i>Guards for drilling machines</i>
	§415	<i>Manually loaded trucks for the collection of household refuse incorporating a compression mechanism</i>
	§416	<i>Interchangeable equipment for lifting persons and equipment used with machinery designed for lifting goods for the purpose of lifting persons</i>
Annex I	§417	<i>Status of machinery control units under the Machinery Directive</i>
Annex II	§418	<i>Table of safety components which are considered to be logic units</i>

INDEX

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§255 *The form of the instructions*

~~Section 1.7.4 does not specify the form of the instructions. It is generally agreed that all health and safety related instructions must be supplied in paper form, since it cannot be assumed that the user has access to the means of reading instructions supplied in electronic form or made available on an Internet site. However, it is often useful for the instructions to be made available in electronic form and on the Internet as well as in paper form, since this enables the user to download the electronic file if he so wishes and to recover the instructions if the paper copy has been lost. This practice also facilitates the updating of the instructions when this is necessary.~~

In 2023 no less than 93% of EU households had internet access (source: Eurostat⁶). Under these circumstances, and in light of the new Machinery Regulation's provisions on the format of the instructions, one can consider that respecting those provisions, including the obligation to provide the essential safety information in paper format in the case of non-professional use, also ensures compliance with the corresponding provisions of the Machinery Directive.

Instructions for use when they are provided in digital format

When the instructions for use are provided in digital format, the provisions of Article 10(7) of the new Machinery Regulation should be followed.

Compliance with Article 10(7) of that Regulation is required given that the Regulation sets out specific obligations on the manufacturers when they provide the instructions for use in digital format.

In addition, in case of machinery for non-professional use made physically available in Member States, it is recommended that the following statement is provided in the essential safety information or on the packaging or on the machinery itself: 'The purchaser has the right to request to obtain, free of charge, the instructions for use in paper format'.

This statement should be in a language which can be easily understood by the purchasers in those Member States, as determined by those Member States.

Meaning of 'safety information that is essential' mentioned in the fourth subparagraph of Article 10(7) of the new Machinery Regulation

It is understood that such information should, as a minimum, consist of information relating to assembly, start-up, use, maintenance and transport of the machinery, ensuring that, by following those instructions, the safety or health of the user or a third person is not at risk.

⁶ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/bookmark/4747b5a6-24ea-4f0b-8b39-de751bc4f2d3>

Based on the risk assessment of the manufacturer, it might be necessary to provide additional information within the safety information that is deemed essential.

...

§261 Inclusion of the EC Declaration of Conformity in the instructions

Section 1.7.4.2 (c) concerns the inclusion of the EC Declaration of Conformity in the instructions. Like the instructions, the EC Declaration of Conformity must accompany the machinery – see §103: comments on Article 5 (1). In order to fulfil this obligation, the manufacturer can choose between the two following alternatives:

- the signed EC Declaration of Conformity is included in the instruction handbookinstructions for use. This is appropriate in the case of one-off products or machinery produced in small numbers;
- a documentsection setting out the contents of the EC Declaration of Conformity (not necessarily including the serial number and the signature) is included in the instruction handbookinstructions for use, in which case the completed and signed EC Declaration of Conformity itself must be provided separatelyin addition – see §382: comments on Annex II 1 A.

The instructions for use and EC Declaration of Conformity do not have to have the same format and do not have to form an inseparate physical or digital document. The EC Declaration of Conformity may be provided in paper format even when the instructions for use are provided in digital format (see §255) and vice versa. Such instructions may contain the EC Declaration of Conformity itself, or the internet address or machine readable code, where the EC Declaration of Conformity can be accessed.

...

§264 Assembly, installation and connection

Section 1.7.4.2 (i) covers operations to be carried out by or on behalf of the user before the machinery is put into service.

Assembly instructions, which may be provided in digital format (see §255), are necessary for machinery that is not supplied to the user ready to use, for example, where elements of the machinery have been disassembled for transport or packaging purposes. Particular attention must be given to assembly instructions where assembly is to be carried out by non-professional users – see §258: comments on section 1.7.4.1 (c).

Assembly instructions for interchangeable equipment must specify the type or types of basic machinery with which the equipment can be safely used and include the necessary instructions for the safe assembly of the interchangeable equipment with the basic machinery by the user – see §41: comments on Article 2 (b).

In the case of machinery supplied without a drive system, the instructions must indicate all the necessary specifications for the drive system to be fitted such as the type, power and means of connection, and include precise fitting instructions for the drive system – see §35: comment on the first indent of Article 2 (a).

Installation instructions are necessary for machinery that has to be installed on and/or fixed to particular supports, structures or buildings, on foundations or on the ground, in order to ensure its safe use and stability. The instructions must specify the requisite dimensions and load bearing characteristics of the supports and the means to be used to fix the machinery to its supports. For machinery intended to be installed on means of transport, the instructions must specify the vehicles or trailers on which the machinery can be safely installed, either by reference to their technical characteristics or, where necessary, by reference to specific models of vehicle – see §37: comments on the third indent of Article 2 (a).

Connection instructions must describe the measures to be used to ensure safe connection of the machinery to energy supplies, supplies of fluids and so on. The relevant characteristics of the supplies, such as, for example, voltage, power, pressure or temperature, must be specified. The safe connection of the machinery to the means of evacuating hazardous substances must also be specified, when these means are not an integral part of the machinery.

Paragraph 1.7.4.2 (j) refers to a specific aspect of the installation and assembly instructions relating to the reduction of noise or vibration emissions.

With respect to noise, the instructions must specify, where appropriate, the correct assembly and installation of equipment supplied by the machinery manufacturer to reduce noise emission.

With respect to vibrations, the instructions may include, for example, specifications for foundations with adequate damping characteristics.

INDEX

Subject	Directive 2006/42/EC	Guide
A		
<hr/>		
Access		
- to operating positions and servicing points	<i>Annex I – Section 1.6.2</i>	§240
- means of access (mobility)	<i>Annex I – Section 3.4.5</i>	§317
- to the carrier (lifting persons)	<i>Annex I – Section 6.4.3</i>	§380
- restriction	<i>Annex I – Section 1.2.5</i>	§204
Accessories	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.2 (e)</i>	§177
Accreditation of Notified Bodies	<i>Article 14 (2), (3) & (5)</i>	§134
Acoustic and visual signals (warning devices)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.1.2</i>	§248
- reversing (mobility)	<i>Annex I – Section 3.3.1</i>	§303
AdCo Group (market surveillance)	<i>Article 19 (2)</i>	§144
Additive (printing) machinery	<i>Article 1 (2) (k) – fourth indent</i>	§67
Address of the manufacturer		
- marking	<i>Annex I</i>	§250
- instructions	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (a)</i>	§260
Adjustable guards restricting access	<i>Annex I – Section 1.4.2.3</i>	§220
Adjustment		
- operator	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.1 (d)</i>	§167
- instructions	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (r) & (s)</i>	§272
Advisory procedure (Machinery Committee)	<i>Article 8 (2)</i>	§117
Agricultural and forestry tractors (exclusion)	<i>Recital 8</i>	§11
	<i>Article 1 (2) (e)</i>	§53
Amendment of the Lifts Directive	<i>Recital 27</i>	§28
	<i>Article 24</i>	§151
Amusement park and fairground equipment (exclusion)	<i>Article 1 (2)</i>	§49
Annex IV machinery	<i>Recital 20</i>	§22
- conformity assessment procedures	<i>Article 12 (3) & (4)</i>	§129 & §130
- list of categories	<i>Annex IV</i>	§388
Application of the essential health and safety requirements	<i>Annex I – General Principle 2</i>	§160
Application of the Machinery Directive	<i>Article 26 (1)</i>	§153
Assemblies of machinery (definition)	<i>Article 2 (a)</i>	§38 & §39
- placing on the market	<i>Article 2 (h)</i>	§76
- stop controls	<i>Annex I – Section 1.2.4.4</i>	§203
Assembly (phase of lifetime of machinery)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.2 (a)</i>	§173
Assembly instructions		
- for partly completed machinery	<i>Article 13</i>	§131
	<i>Annex VI</i>	§390
- for machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (i) & (j)</i>	§264
- conditions of stability	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (o)</i>	§269
Assessment of conformity with internal checks on the manufacture of machinery	<i>Article 12 (2) & (3)</i>	§128 & § 129
	<i>Annex VIII</i>	§395
Assessment of Notified Bodies	<i>Article 14 (3) & (5)</i>	§134
- minimum criteria for notification	<i>Annex XI</i>	§408
ATEX Directive (2014/34/EU)	<i>Article 3</i>	§91
- risk of explosion	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.7</i>	§228
- conformity marking	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.3</i>	§251

A-type standards	<i>Article 7 (2)</i>	§111
Auctions (placing on the market)	<i>Article 2 (h)</i>	§75
Audio and video equipment (exclusion)	<i>Article 1 (2) (k) – 2nd indent</i>	§65
Authorised representative	<i>Article 2 (j)</i>	§84 & §85
B		
Band-saws	<i>Annex IV – Item 4</i>	§388
Batteries	<i>Annex I – Section 3.5.1</i>	§320
Braking (mobility))	<i>Annex I – Section 3.3.3</i>	§307
Break-up during operation	<i>Annex I – Section 1.3.2</i>	§207
B-type standards	<i>Article 7 (2)</i>	§111
C		
Cabin (cab)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.8</i>	§182
- driving position (mobility)	<i>Annex I – Section 3.2.1</i>	§294
Cableways Directive (2000/9/EC)	<i>Article 3</i>	§90
Carrier (definition)	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.1 (g)</i>	§334
- movements	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.8.1</i>	§345
- access	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.8.2</i>	§346
	<i>Annex I – Section 6.4.3</i>	§380
- contact	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.8.3</i>	§347
- load falling off	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.8.4</i>	§348
- for goods only	<i>Annex I – Section 4.3.3</i>	§359
- lifting of persons	<i>Annex I – Section 6.1.1</i>	§369
- control of movements	<i>Annex I – Section 6.2</i>	§371
- acceleration and deceleration	<i>Annex I – Section 6.3.1</i>	§372
- tilt, persons falling	<i>Annex I – Section 6.3.2</i>	§373 & §374
- trapdoors and side doors	<i>Annex I – Section 6.3.2</i>	§375
- protective roof	<i>Annex I – Section 6.3.3</i>	§376
- contact with fixed or moving elements	<i>Annex I – Section 6.4.1</i>	§378
- uncontrolled movements	<i>Annex I – Section 6.4.1</i>	§378
- markings (lifting of persons)	<i>Annex I – Section 6.5</i>	§381
Cartridge-operated fixing and other impact machinery (portable)	<i>Recital 6</i>	§9
- transitional period	<i>Annex IV – Item 18</i>	§388
	<i>Article 27</i>	§154
CE marking	<i>Recitals 21 & 22</i>	§23
- obligation	<i>Article 5 (1) (f)</i>	§103
- other Directives	<i>Article 5 (4)</i>	§106
- presumption of conformity	<i>Article 7 (1)</i>	§109
- CE marking on non-compliant products	<i>Article 11 (5)</i>	§125
- affixing	<i>Article 16</i>	§141
	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.3</i>	§250
- form	<i>Annex III</i>	§387
- non-conformity of marking	<i>Article 17</i>	§142
CEN (European standardisation organisation)	<i>Article 7 (2)</i>	§112
CENELEC (European standardisation organisation)	<i>Article 7 (2)</i>	§112
Chains, ropes and webbing (definition)	<i>Article 1 (1) (e) & Article 2 (e)</i>	§44
- lifting machinery	<i>Annex I – Sections 4.1.2.4</i>	§340
- lifting accessories and components	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.5</i>	§341
- information and markings	<i>Annex I – Section 4.3.1</i>	§357
- lifting of persons	<i>Annex I – Section 6.1.1</i>	§369
Chainsaws (portable)	<i>Annex IV – Item 8</i>	§388
Circular saws	<i>Annex IV - Item 1</i>	§388
Citations	<i>Citations</i>	§1
Classification of harmonised standards	<i>Article 7 (2)</i>	§111

Cleaning		
- internal parts	<i>Annex I – Section 1.6.5</i>	§243
- foodstuffs, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 2.1</i>	§277
Combined machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 1.3.5</i>	§210
- woodworking machinery	<i>Annex IV – Item 5</i>	§388
Committee	<i>Recital 30</i>	§31
	<i>Article 22</i>	§147
Community official languages	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.1</i>	§246
Confidentiality	<i>Article 18</i>	§143
Conformity assessment	<i>Recital 19</i>	§21
- obligation	<i>Article 5 (1) (d)</i>	§103
- means of ensuring conformity	<i>Article 5 (3)</i>	§105
- procedures	<i>Article 12</i>	§127 to §130
- with internal checks on manufacture	<i>Annex VIII</i>	§395
- EC type-examination	<i>Annex IX</i>	§396 to §400
- full quality assurance	<i>Annex X</i>	§401 to §407
Connexion		
- to sources of energy	<i>Article 2 (a)</i>	§36
- errors of fitting	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.4</i>	§225
- instructions	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.2.4 (i)</i>	§264
- towing devices	<i>Annex I – Section 3.4.5</i>	§318
Construction Products Regulation ((EU) 305/2011)	<i>Article 3</i>	§92
Construction site hoists	<i>Recital 5</i>	§8
Consumer use	<i>Recital 15</i>	§17
- instructions	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.1 (d)</i>	§259
Control devices	<i>Annex I – Section 1.2.2</i>	§185 to §198
- identification		§186
- positioning		§187
- movement		§188
- location		§189
- inadvertent operation		§190
- strength		§191
- to perform different actions		§192
- ergonomic principles		§193
- indicators and displays		§194
- mobile machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 3.3.1</i>	§299 & §300
- lifting movements	<i>Annex I – Section 4.2.1</i>	§353
- underground working	<i>Annex I – Section 5.3</i>	§364
- lifting of persons	<i>Annex I – Section 6.2</i>	§371
Control of movements (lifting)	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.6</i>	§342
Control positions		
- visibility from control positions	<i>Annex I – Section 1.2.2</i>	§195
- location of control positions		§196
- multiple control positions		§197
Controls at landings (lifting persons)	<i>Annex I – Section 6.4.2</i>	§379
Control systems	<i>Annex I – Section 1.2</i>	§184 to §205
- safety and reliability	<i>Annex I – Section 1.2.1</i>	§184
- starting	<i>Annex I – Section 1.2.3</i>	§199
- stopping	<i>Annex I – Section 1.2.4</i>	§200 to §203
- unauthorised use (mobility)	<i>Annex I – Section 3.3</i>	§297
- remote controls (mobility)	<i>Annex I – Section 3.3</i>	§298
Control unit (delivering safety functions)	<i>Article 2</i>	§42, § 46
Cooperation between Member States		
- Machinery AdCo Group	<i>Article 19 (2)</i>	§144
Coordination of Notified Bodies (NB-M)	<i>Article 14 (7)</i>	§137

	<i>Annex XI</i>	§408
Cosmetics machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 2.1</i>	§277
Criteria for the assessment of Notified Bodies	<i>Annex XI</i>	§408

D

Danger zone (definition)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.1 (b)</i>	§165
- location of maintenance points outside	<i>Annex I – Section 1.6.1</i>	§239
Decisions (full quality assurance system)	<i>Annex X 2.3</i>	§404
Declaration of Conformity (EC)		
- obligation	<i>Article 5 (1) (e)</i>	§103
- instructions	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (c)</i>	§261
- content	<i>Annex II 1 A</i>	§382 & §383
- custody	<i>Annex II 2</i>	§386
Declaration of incorporation for partly completed machinery	<i>Article 13</i>	§131
- custody	<i>Annex II 1 B</i>	§385
	<i>Annex II 2</i>	§386
Definitions	<i>Recital 4</i>	§7
	<i>Article 2</i>	§33 to §87
	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.1</i>	§164 to §172
	<i>Annex I – Section 3.1.1</i>	§292 & §293
	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.1</i>	§328 to §324
Demonstrations, trade fairs and exhibitions	<i>Article 6 (3)</i>	§108
Description of the machinery (instructions)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (d) to (f)</i>	§262
Designation of machinery		
- marking	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.3</i>	§250
- instructions	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (b)</i>	§260
Detection of persons (safety components)	<i>Annex IV – Item 19</i>	§388
	<i>Annex V – Item 2</i>	§389
Devices for the lifting of persons	<i>Annex IV – Item 17</i>	§388
Diagnostic fault-finding equipment	<i>Annex I – Section 1.6.1</i>	§239
Disabling (phase of lifetime of machinery)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.2 (a)</i>	§173
Dismantling		
- phase of lifetime of machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.2 (a)</i>	§173
- conditions of stability	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (o)</i>	§269
Displays (control devices)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.2.2</i>	§194
Distributors		§83
Drilling machines (guards)		§414
Driver of mobile machinery (definition)	<i>Annex I – Section 3.1.1 (b)</i>	§293
Driving position (mobility)	<i>Annex I – Section 3.2.1</i>	§294
Drums (lifting)	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.4</i>	§340
Dynamic test		
- definition	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.1 (f)</i>	§333
- coefficients	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.3</i>	§339
- fitness for purpose	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.3</i>	§351

E

EC Declaration of Conformity		
- obligation	<i>Article 5 (1) (e)</i>	§103
- instructions	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (c)</i>	§261
- content	<i>Annex II 1 A</i>	§382 & §383
- custody	<i>Annex II 2</i>	§386
Eco-design Directive (2005/32/EC)	<i>Article 3</i>	§92

EC type-examination procedure (conformity assessment)	<i>Article 12 (3) (b)</i>	§129
	<i>Article 12 (4) (a)</i>	§130
	<i>Annex IX 1</i>	§396
- application	<i>Annex IX 2</i>	§397
- content	<i>Annex IX 3</i>	§398
- certificate	<i>Annex IX 4 to 8</i>	§399
- validity and review of certificate	<i>Annex IX 9</i>	§400
Ejected objects	<i>Annex I – Section 1.3.3</i>	§208
- ejection of workpieces (woodworking)	<i>Annex I – Section 2.3 (b)</i>	§281
Electrical and electronic products (exclusion)	<i>Article 1 (2) (k)</i>	§63
Electrical risks	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.1</i>	§222
- batteries	<i>Annex I – Section 3.5.1</i>	§320
Electric motors (exclusion)	<i>Article 1 (2) (k) – 6th indent</i>	§69
Electrical and electronic products	<i>Article 3</i>	§90
Electromagnetic compatibility		
- Directive (2014/30/EU)	<i>Article 3</i>	§92
- immunity	<i>Annex I – Section 1.2.1</i>	§184
	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.11</i>	§233
Electromagnetic radiation	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.10</i>	§232
Electro-sensitive protective devices	<i>Annex I – Section 1.4.3</i>	§221
Emergency brake (mobility)	<i>Annex I – Section 3.3.3</i>	§307
Emergency exit (from operating positions)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.7</i>	§182
Emergency stop controls	<i>Annex I – Section 1.2.4.3</i>	§202
- safety components	<i>Annex V – Item 10</i>	§389
Emergency stop devices		§413
Emission (noise)		
- emission reduction	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.8</i>	§229
- comparative emission data	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.8</i>	§230
- declaration	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (u)</i>	§273
- Outdoor equipment Directive (2000/14/EC)	<i>Article 3</i>	§92
	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (u)</i>	§273
Emission (vibrations)		
- emission reduction	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.9</i>	§231
- seating	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.8</i>	§183
- installation and assembly	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (j)</i>	§264
- declaration for portable machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 2.2.1.1</i>	§279
- declaration for mobile machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 3.6.3.1</i>	§325
Emissions (hazardous materials and substances)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.13</i>	§235
- spraying machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 3.5.3</i>	§322
Emissions (radiation)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.10</i>	§232
Emissions (sales literature)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.3</i>	§275
Ergonomic principles	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.6</i>	§181
- control devices	<i>Annex I – Section 1.2.2</i>	§193
Errors of fitting	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.4</i>	§225
Essential health and safety requirements	<i>Article 5 (1) (a)</i>	§103
	<i>Annex I</i>	§157 to §381
EU official languages	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.1</i>	§246
EUROPA (European Commission Website)	<i>Article 21</i>	§146
European Economic Area (EEA)	<i>Article 6</i>	§107
European Standardisation Organisations (ESOs)	<i>Article 7 (2)</i>	§112
Exclusions (scope)	<i>Article 1 (2)</i>	§48 to §70
Exhaust emissions (underground working)	<i>Annex I – Section 5.6</i>	§367
Exhibitions, trade fairs & demonstrations	<i>Recital 17</i>	§19
	<i>Article 6 (3)</i>	§108
Explosion	<i>Annex I – 1.5.7</i>	§228
Exposed person (definition)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.1 I</i>	§166

External radiation	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.11</i>	§233
Extraction systems (safety components)	<i>Annex V – Item 6</i>	§389
Extreme temperatures	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.5</i>	§226

F

Failure of the power supply	<i>Annex I – Section 1.2.6</i>	§205
Fairground and amusement park equipment (exclusion)	<i>Article 1 (2)</i>	§49
Falling objects	<i>Annex I – Section 1.3.3</i>	§208
- mobile machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 3.4.4</i>	§316
- machinery for lifting persons	<i>Annex I – Section 6.3.3</i>	§376
- falling-object protective structures (FOPS)	<i>Annex IV – Item 23</i> <i>Annex V – Item 15</i>	§388 §389
Falling, slipping and tripping	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.15</i>	§237
Fall of the load (lifting)	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.6 (c)</i>	§342
- from the carrier	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.8.4</i>	§348
Fire	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.6</i>	§227
- fire extinguishers (mobility)	<i>Annex I – Section 3.5.2</i>	§321
- machinery for underground working	<i>Annex I – Section 5.5</i>	§366
Firearms (exclusion)	<i>Recital 6</i> <i>Article 1 (2) (d)</i>	§9 §51
Fitness for purpose (lifting)	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.3</i>	§350 to §352
Fitting errors	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.4</i>	§225
Fixed guards	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.1</i>	§218
Fixed landings (machinery serving)	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.8</i>	§344 to 349
- lifting persons	<i>Annex I – Section 6.4</i>	§377
Fluids used	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.3</i>	§178
- fluids under high pressure	<i>Annex I – Section 1.3.2</i>	§207
Foodstuffs machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 2.1</i>	§277
Foreseeable misuse (definition)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.1 (i)</i>	§172
- taking into account	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.2 (a)</i>	§173
- preventing	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.2 (c)</i>	§175
- warnings in instructions	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (h)</i>	§263
Forestry and agricultural tractors (exclusion)	<i>Recital 8</i> <i>Article 1 (2) (e)</i>	§11 §53
Formal objection to a harmonised standard	<i>Recital 11</i>	§13
- procedure	<i>Article 10</i>	§119 & §120
- outcome		§121
Freedom of movement of machinery and partly completed machinery	<i>Article 6</i>	§107
Full quality assurance procedure	<i>Article 12 (3) (c)</i>	§129
(conformity assessment	<i>Article 12 (4) (b)</i>	§130
	<i>Annex X 1</i>	§401
- application	<i>Annex X 2.1</i>	§402
- objectives and content	<i>Annex X 2.2</i>	§403
- assessment	<i>Annex X 2.3</i>	§404
- implementation and modification	<i>Annex X 2.4</i>	§405
- surveillance	<i>Annex X 3</i>	§406
- custody of documentation	<i>Annex X 4</i>	§407
Furniture (electrically operated)	<i>Article 1 (2) (k) – first indent</i>	§64

G

Gas Appliances Directive (90/396/EEC)	<i>Article 3</i>	§91
General Principles	<i>Annex I – General Principles</i>	§157 to 163

Guard (definition)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.1 (f)</i>	§169
- guards and protective devices	<i>Annex I – Section 1.4.1</i>	§216
- guards	<i>Annex I – Section 1.4.2</i>	§217
- fixed guards	<i>Annex I – Section 1.4.2.1</i>	§218
- interlocking movable guards	<i>Annex I – Section 1.4.2.2</i>	§219
- guard locking	<i>Annex I – Section 1.4.2.2</i>	§219
- adjustable guards	<i>Annex I – Section 1.4.2.3</i>	§220
- guards for removable mechanical transmission devices	<i>Annex I – Section 3.4.7</i>	§319
- safety components	<i>Annex IV – Item 15</i>	§388
	<i>Annex V – Item 7</i>	§389
Guided load (definition)	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.1 (b)</i>	§329
- guide ropes	<i>Annex I – Section 4.2.3</i>	§356
Guide rails and tracks	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.2</i>	§336
H		
Handholds (slipping, tripping and falling)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.15</i>	§237
- means of access to mobile machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 3.4.5</i>	§317
Handling of machinery or parts of machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.5</i>	§180
- marking of mass	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.3</i>	§253
Harmonised standard	<i>Recital 18</i>	§20
- definition	<i>Article 2 (l)</i>	§87
- presumption of conformity	<i>Article 7 (2)</i>	§110
- classification		§111
- development		§112
- identification		§113
- publication in the OJEU	<i>Article 7 (3)</i>	§114
- participation of social partners	<i>Article 7 (4)</i>	§115
- formal objection	<i>Recital 11</i>	§13
	<i>Article 10</i>	§119 to §121
- shortcomings in harmonised standards	<i>Article 11 (4)</i>	§124
- conformity assessment of Annex IV machinery	<i>Article 12 (3)</i>	§129
- standards and the state of the art	<i>Annex I – General Principle 3</i>	§162
Hazard (definition)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.1 (a)</i>	§164
- hazards due to mobility	<i>Annex I – Section 3.1.1 (a)</i>	§292
Hazardous environment (operating position)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.8</i>	§182
Hazardous materials and substances		
- Restriction on use of Hazardous Substances Directive (2002/95/EC)	<i>Article 3</i>	§92
- used or created by the machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.3</i>	§178
- emissions	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.13</i>	§235
- sales literature	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.3</i>	§275
- spraying machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 3.5.3</i>	§322
Health and safety	<i>Recital 3</i>	§6
- of persons	<i>Article 4 (1)</i>	§93
- essential requirements (EHSRs)	<i>Annex I</i>	§157 to §381
- of workers	<i>Article 15</i>	§140
High voltage electrical equipment (exclusion)	<i>Article 1 (2) (l)</i>	§70
- high voltage equipment for machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.1</i>	§222
Hold-to-run control devices		
- mobile machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 3.3.1</i>	§353
- lifting movements	<i>Annex I – Section 4.2.1</i>	§301
- lifting of persons	<i>Annex I – Section 6.2</i>	371
Horizontal Committee of Notified Bodies	<i>Article 14 (7)</i>	§137
Household appliances for domestic use (exclusion)	<i>Article 1 (2) (k) – 1st indent</i>	§64

Hydraulic energy	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.3</i>	§224
Hydraulic powered roof supports	<i>Annex IV – Item 12.2</i>	§388
Hygiene requirements	<i>Annex I – Section 2.1</i>	§277

I

Implantable medical devices (instructions)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (v)</i>	§274
Indicators and displays (control devices)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.2.2</i>	§194
Information	<i>Article 5 (c)</i>	§103
	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.2 (b)</i>	§174
	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7</i>	§244 to §279
- information and warnings on the machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.1</i>	§245 & §246
- information and information devices	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.1.1</i>	§247
- warning devices	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.1.2</i>	§248
- information essential for safe use	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.3</i>	§252
Information about the Machinery Directive	<i>Article 21</i>	§146
Information technology equipment (exclusion)	<i>Article 1 (2) (k) – 3rd indent</i>	§66
Inherently safe design	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.2 (b)</i>	§174
Inspection of machinery in service	<i>Article 15</i>	§140
Installation and use of machinery	<i>Article 15</i>	§139 & §140
Installation instructions	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.2.4 (i) & (j)</i>	§264
Institutions dealing with the Machinery Directive		§149
Instructions	<i>Article 5 (c)</i>	§103
- language	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4</i>	§254 to §274
- drafting and translation	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.1 (a) & (b)</i>	§256 & §257
- foreseeable misuse	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.1 (c)</i>	§258
- non-professional operators	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.1 (d)</i>	§259
- foodstuffs, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 2.1.2</i>	§277
- portable hand-held and hand guided machinery (vibrations)	<i>Annex I – Section 2.2.1.1</i>	§279
- portable fixing and other impact machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 2.2.2.2</i>	§280
- mobile machinery (vibrations)	<i>Annex I – Section 3.6.3.1</i>	§325
- lifting accessories	<i>Annex I – Section 4.4.1</i>	§360
- lifting machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 4.4.2</i>	§361
Intended use of machinery (definition)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.1 (h)</i>	§171
- instructions	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (g)</i>	§263
Interchangeable equipment (definition)	<i>Article 1 (1) (b) & Article 2 (b)</i>	§41
- instructions (mobility)	<i>Annex I – Section 3.6.3.2</i>	§326
- intended for lifting operations	<i>Annex I – Part 4</i>	§327
- for lifting persons		§416
Interlocking movable guards	<i>Annex I – Section 1.4.2.2</i>	§219
- power-operated guards for certain presses	<i>Annex IV – Item 20</i>	§388
	<i>Annex V – Item 3</i>	§389
Internal checks on manufacture (conformity assessment)	<i>Article 12 (2) & (3)</i>	§128 & §129
	<i>Annex VIII</i>	§395
Ionising radiation	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.10</i>	§232

L

Landings	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.8.5</i>	§349
- controls at landings (lifting of persons)	<i>Annex I – Section 6.4.2</i>	§379

Language		
- written or verbal information (warnings)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.1</i>	§245 & §246
- instructions	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4</i>	§256
- assembly instructions for partly completed machinery	<i>Annex VI</i>	§390
- technical file	<i>Annex VII A</i>	§391
- correspondence with Notified Body	<i>Annex IX 8</i>	§399
Laser radiation	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.12</i>	§234
Legal remedies	<i>Recital 25</i>	§26
	<i>Article 20</i>	§145
Lifting accessories (definition)	<i>Article 1 (1) (d) & Article 2 (d)</i>	§43
- lifting accessories and components	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.5</i>	§341
- marking	<i>Annex I – Section 4.3.2</i>	§358
- instructions	<i>Annex I – Section 4.4.1</i>	§360
Lifting loads with lifting machinery (classification)		§412
Lifting of persons	<i>Recital 7</i>	§10
- requirements	<i>Annex I – Part 6</i>	§368 to §381
- devices for the lifting of persons	<i>Annex IV – Item 17</i>	§388
Lifting operations (definition)	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.1 (a)</i>	§328
- requirements	<i>Annex I – Part 4</i>	§327 to §364
Lifts Directive (2014/33/EU)	<i>Article 3</i>	§90
- amendment	<i>Recital 27</i>	§28
	<i>Article 24</i>	§151
Lighting	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.4</i>	§179
Lightning	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.16</i>	§238
Load (lifting)		
- fall, lowering, holding devices	<i>Annex I – Section 1.4.2.6</i>	§342
Loading control (lifting)	<i>Annex I – Section 4.2.2</i>	§354
- lifting of persons	<i>Annex I – Section 6.1.2</i>	§370
- devices (safety components)	<i>Annex V – Item 8</i>	§389
Locomotives and brake vans (underground working)	<i>Annex IV – Item 12.1</i>	§388
Logic units to ensure safety functions	<i>Annex IV – Item 21</i>	§388
	<i>Annex V – Item 4</i>	§399
Low Voltage Directive (2014/35/EU) (exclusion)	<i>Article 1 (2) (k)</i>	§63 to §69
- safety objectives	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.1</i>	§222
Low voltage switchgear and control gear (exclusion)	<i>Article 1 (2) (k) – 5th indent</i>	§68

M

Machinery	<i>Article 1 (1) (a)</i>	
- broad sense	<i>Article 2 – first sentence</i>	§33
- definition	<i>Article 2 (a)</i>	§34 to §40
- new and used machinery		§72
- for nuclear purposes (exclusion)	<i>Article 1 (2) (c)</i>	§50
- for military or police (exclusion)	<i>Article 1 (2) (g)</i>	§59
- for research purposes (exclusion)	<i>Article 1 (2) (h)</i>	§60
- to move performers (exclusion)	<i>Article 1 (2) (j)</i>	§62
- for consumer use	<i>Recital 15</i>	§17
	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.1 (d)</i>	§259
- serving fixed landings	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.8</i>	§344 to §349
	<i>Annex I – Section 6.4</i>	§377 to §380
- intended for underground working	<i>Annex I – Part 5</i>	§362 to §367
	<i>Annex IV – Item 12</i>	§388
Machinery Committee	<i>Recital 30</i>	§31
	<i>Article 22</i>	§147

Machinery Working Group	<i>Article 22</i>	§148
Maintenance		
- mode selection	<i>Annex I – Section 1.2.5</i>	§204
- machinery maintenance	<i>Annex I – Section 1.6.1</i>	§239
- access	<i>Annex I – Section 1.6.2</i>	§240
- isolation of energy sources	<i>Annex I – Section 1.6.3</i>	§241
- operator intervention	<i>Annex I – Section 1.6.4</i>	§242
- cleaning of internal parts	<i>Annex I – Section 1.6.5</i>	§243
- instructions	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (r) & (s)</i>	§272
Manually loaded trucks (household refuse)		§415
Manufacturer (definition)	<i>Article 2 (i)</i>	§78 to §82
- manufacturer of machinery	<i>Article 5 (1)</i>	§103
- manufacturer of partly completed machinery		
	<i>Article 5 (2)</i>	§104
Market surveillance	<i>Recitals 9 and 10</i>	§12
	<i>Article 4</i>	§93 to §102
- of machinery		§94
- of partly completed machinery		§95
- authorities		§96
- system		§97
- cooperation between authorities	<i>Article 19 (2)</i>	§144
Marking of machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.3</i>	§250
- mobile machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 3.6.2</i>	§324
- chains, ropes and webbing	<i>Annex I – Section 4.3.1</i>	§357
- lifting accessories	<i>Annex I – Section 4.3.2</i>	§358
- lifting machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 4.3.3</i>	§359
- carrier (lifting of persons)	<i>Annex I – Section 6.5</i>	§381
Mass		
- instructions for handling	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (p)</i>	§270
- marking of mobile machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 3.6.2</i>	§324
Materials		
- materials and products used	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.3</i>	§178
- for contact with foodstuffs	<i>Article 3</i>	§91
	<i>Annex I – Section 2.1.1 (a)</i>	§277
- durability of materials	<i>Annex I – Section 1.3.2</i>	§207
- emission of hazardous materials	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.13</i>	§235
- lifting	<i>Annex I – Section 1.4.2.3</i>	§337
Maximum working load		
- marking of lifting accessories	<i>Annex I – Section 4.3.2</i>	§358
- marking of lifting machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 4.3.3</i>	§359
- instructions for lifting machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 4.4.2</i>	§364
- marking in the carrier (lifting persons)	<i>Annex I – Section 6.5</i>	§381
Means of access (mobility)	<i>Annex I – Section 3.4.5</i>	§317
Means of transport (exclusion)	<i>Article 1 (2) (e)</i>	§53 to §57
Measure to deal with groups of hazardous machinery	<i>Recital 13</i>	§15
	<i>Article 8 (1) (b)</i>	§116
	<i>Article 9</i>	§118
Mechanical hazards	<i>Annex I – Section 1.3</i>	§206 to §215
Mechanical strength (lifting)	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.3</i>	§337 to §339
- lifting persons	<i>Annex I – Section 6.1.1</i>	§369
Medical Devices Directive (93/42/EC)	<i>Article 3</i>	§90
Military or police purposes (exclusion)	<i>Article 1 (2) (g)</i>	§59
Mine winding gear (exclusion)	<i>Article 1 (2) (i)</i>	§61
Minimum criteria for the assessment of Notified Bodies	<i>Annex XI</i>	§408
Misuse - reasonably foreseeable (definition)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.1 (i)</i>	§172

- taking into account	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.2 (a)</i>	§173
- preventing	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.2 (c)</i>	§175
- warnings, instructions	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (h)</i>	§263
Mobile offshore units (exclusion)	<i>Article 1 (1) (f)</i>	§58
Mobility of machinery (definition)	<i>Annex I – Section 3.1.1 (a)</i>	§292
- requirements	<i>Annex I – Part 3</i>	§291 to §326
Mode selection	<i>Annex I – Section 1.2.5</i>	§204
Monitoring of Notified Bodies	<i>Article 14 (2)</i>	§134
Motivation of decisions	<i>Article 20</i>	§145
Motor vehicles (exclusion)		
- 4 wheeled road vehicles	<i>Article 1 (2) (e) – 2nd indent</i>	§54
- 2 and 3 wheeled road vehicles	<i>Article 1 (2) (e) – 3rd indent</i>	§55
- vehicles intended for competition	<i>Article 1 (2) (e) – 4th indent</i>	§56
Movable guards (interlocking)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.4.2.2</i>	§219
- powered, for presses	<i>Annex IV – Item 20</i>	§388
	<i>Annex V – Item 3</i>	§389
Moving parts	<i>Annex I – Section 1.3.7</i>	§212
- choice of protection	<i>Annex I – Section 1.3.8</i>	§213
- transmission parts	<i>Annex I – Section 1.3.8.1</i>	§213
- parts involved in the process	<i>Annex I – Section 1.3.8.2</i>	§214
- instructions for unblocking	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (q)</i>	§271
- wheels and tracks (mobility)	<i>Annex I – Section 3.2.1</i>	§294
Multiple uses (instructions, mobile mobility)	<i>Annex I – Section 3.6.3.2</i>	§326

N

NANDO (list of Notified Bodies)	<i>Article 14</i>	§133
National regulations on installation and use of machinery	<i>Article 15</i>	§139 & §140
NB-M (Coordination of Notified Bodies)	<i>Article 14 (7)</i>	§137
Noise		
- emission reduction	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.8</i>	§229
- comparative emission data	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.8</i>	§230
- declaration (instructions)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (u)</i>	§273
- Outdoor Equipment Directive (2000/14/EC)	<i>Article 3</i>	§92
- installation and assembly instructions	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (u)</i>	§273
- sales literature	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (j)</i>	§264
- reduction devices and systems	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.3</i>	§275
	<i>Annex V – Item 13</i>	§389
Nominal power (marking of mobile machinery)	<i>Annex I – Section 3.6.2</i>	§324
Non-compliant machinery	<i>Article 4</i>	§100 & §101
Non-conformity of marking	<i>Article 17</i>	§142
Non-professional operators (instructions)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.1 (d)</i>	§259
Non-road Mobile Machinery Directive (97/68/EC)	<i>Article 3</i>	§92
Normal stop control	<i>Annex I – Section 1.2.4.1</i>	§200
Notified Bodies	<i>Article 14 (1) to (5)</i>	§133 & §134
- Coordination of Notified Bodies (NB-M)	<i>Article 14 (7)</i>	§127
- minimum criteria for notification	<i>Annex XI</i>	§408

O

Office machinery (exclusion)	<i>Article 1 (2) (k) – 4th indent</i>	§67
Official languages of the Community (EU)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.1</i>	§246
Offshore units (exclusion)	<i>Article 1 (2) (f)</i>	§58
Operating conditions (variation)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.3.6</i>	§211
Operating position	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.7</i>	§182
- multiple operating positions	<i>Annex I – Section 1.2.2</i>	§198

- access	<i>Annex I – Section 1.6.2</i>	§240
Operational stop control	<i>Annex I – Section 1.2.4.2</i>	§201
Operator (definition)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.1 (d)</i>	§167
- training	<i>Article 15</i>	§140
- indication of necessary training	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.2</i>	§174
- instructions for training	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (k)</i>	§266
Operator intervention (maintenance)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.6.4</i>	§242
Optical radiation	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.10</i>	§232
Outdoor Equipment Directive (2000/14/EC)	<i>Article 3</i>	§92

P

Partly completed machinery	<i>Recital 16</i>	§18
- definition	<i>Article 1 (1) (g) & Article 2 (g)</i>	§46
- placing on the market	<i>Article 2 (h)</i>	§77
- procedure	<i>Article 13</i>	§131
- Declaration of Incorporation	<i>Annex II 1 B</i>	§385
- assembly instructions	<i>Annex VI</i>	§390
- relevant technical documentation	<i>Annex VII B</i>	§394
Parts of Annex I	<i>Annex I – General Principle 4</i>	§163
Pedals (mobility)	<i>Annex I – Section 3.3.1</i>	§300
Pedestrian controlled mobile machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 3.3.4</i>	§311
Penalties	<i>Recital 26</i>	§27
	<i>Article 23</i>	§150
Personal protective equipment (PPE)		
- Directive 89/686/EC	<i>Article 3</i>	§90
- provision of PPE	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.2 (b)</i>	§174
- constraints due to use of PPE	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.2 (d)</i>	§176
- instructions on provision of PPE	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (m)</i>	§267
- anchorage points in carrier	<i>Annex I – Section 6.3.2</i>	§374
Pesticide application (machinery for)	<i>Annex I – Section 2.4</i>	§282 to §290
Pictograms (information and warnings)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.1</i>	§245
Placing on the market (definition)	<i>Article 2 (h)</i>	§71 to §77
- of machinery	<i>Article 5 (1)</i>	§103
- of partly completed machinery	<i>Article 5 (2)</i>	§104
Plastics moulding machinery	<i>Annex IV – Item 10</i>	§388
Pneumatic energy	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.3</i>	§224
Portable cartridge-operated fixing and other impact machinery	<i>Recital 6</i>	§9
- transitional period	<i>Annex IV – Item 18</i>	§388
	<i>Article 27</i>	§154
Portable fixing and other impact machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 2.2.2</i>	§280
Portable hand-held or hand-guided machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 2.2</i>	§278
- declaration of vibrations	<i>Annex I – Section 2.2.1.1</i>	§279
Power (marking of mobile machinery)	<i>Annex I – Section 3.6.2</i>	§324
Power-assisted steering (mobility)	<i>Annex I – Section 3.3.5</i>	§312
Powered roof supports (underground working)	<i>Annex I – Section 5.1 & 5.2</i>	§363
	<i>Annex IV – Item 12.2</i>	§388
Power operated moveable guards for presses	<i>Annex IV – Item 20</i>	§388
	<i>Annex V – Item 3</i>	§389
Power supply (failure)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.2.6</i>	§205
- lifting	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.6 (c)</i>	§342
Presses for the cold working of metals	<i>Annex IV – Item 9</i>	§388
Pressure Equipment Directive (2014/68/EU)	<i>Article 3</i>	§91
Pressure sensitive protective devices	<i>Annex I – Section 1.4.3</i>	§221
Pressure Vessels Directive (2014/29/EU)	<i>Article 3</i>	§91
Presumption of conformity		
- CE marking	<i>Article 7 (1)</i>	§109

- harmonised standards	<i>Article 7 (2)</i>	§110 & §111
Principles of safety integration	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.2</i>	§173 to 177
Procedure for partly completed machinery	<i>Article 13</i>	§131 §132
Procedures for conformity assessment of machinery	<i>Article 12</i>	§127 to §129 §132
Process (moving parts)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.3.8.2</i>	§214
Products excluded from the scope	<i>Article 1 (2)</i>	§48 to §70
Products subject to the Directive (scope)	<i>Article 1 (1) & Article 2</i>	§32 to §46
Products used	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.3</i>	§178
Protective devices (definition)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.1 (g)</i>	§170
- requirements	<i>Annex I – Section 1.4.3</i>	§221
- to detect the presence of persons	<i>Annex IV – Item 19</i>	§388
	<i>Annex V – Item 2</i>	§389
- safety components	<i>Annex V – Item 7</i>	§389
Protective measures	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.2 (b)</i>	§174
Publication of decisions	<i>Article 18 (3)</i>	§143
Pulleys (lifting)	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.4</i>	§340
Putting into service (definition)	<i>Article 2 (k)</i>	§86
- instructions	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (k)</i>	§265

R

Radiation	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.10</i>	§232
- implantable medical devices	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (v)</i>	§274
- sales literature	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.3</i>	§275
Radio Equipment Directive (2014/53/EU)	<i>Article 3</i>	§92
Rail-mounted machines (lifting)	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.6 (b)</i>	§342
Rail networks (exclusion)	<i>Article 1 (2) (e)</i>	§57
Rail tracks and guide rails	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.2</i>	§336
Reasonably foreseeable misuse (definition)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.1 (i)</i>	§172
- taking into account	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.2 (a)</i>	§173
- preventing	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.2 (c)</i>	§175
- warnings in instructions	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (h)</i>	§263
Recitals	<i>Recitals</i>	§3 to §31
Recommendations for Use (RfUs)	<i>Article 14 (7)</i>	§137
Refuse collection vehicles (RCVs)	<i>Annex IV – Item 13</i>	§388
Regulatory procedure with scrutiny	<i>Article 8 (1)</i>	§116
	<i>Article 9 (3)</i>	§118
Relevant technical documentation for partly completed machinery	<i>Article 13</i>	§131
	<i>Annex VII B</i>	§394
Reliability of control systems	<i>Annex I – Section 1.2.1</i>	§184
Remedies	<i>Recital 25</i>	§26
	<i>Article 20</i>	§145
Remote controls	<i>Annex I – Section 3.3</i>	§298
- remote control of mobile machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 3.3.3</i>	§309
Removable mechanical transmission devices (definition)	<i>Article 1 (1) (f) & Article 2 (f)</i>	§45
- requirements	<i>Annex I – Section 3.4.7</i>	§319
- conformity assessment procedures	<i>Annex IV – Items 14 & 15</i>	§388
- guards	<i>Annex V – Item 1</i>	§389
Rental of machinery (placing on the market)	<i>Article 2 (h)</i>	§74
Repeal of Directive 98/37/EC	<i>Article 25</i>	§152
Residual risks	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.2 (b)</i>	§174
- warnings	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.2</i>	§249
- instructions	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (l)</i>	§267
Restraint systems (mobility)	<i>Annex I – Section 3.2.2</i>	§295

- safety components	<i>Annex V – Item 9</i>	§389
Risk (definition)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.1 (e)</i>	§168
Risk assessment	<i>Recital 23</i>	§24
	<i>Annex I – General Principle 1</i>	§158 & §159
Risk reduction	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.2 (b)</i>	§174
Road circulation of mobile machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 3.3.3</i>	§308
- signs, signals and warnings	<i>Annex I – Section 3.6.1</i>	§323
Road vehicles (exclusion)		
- 4 wheeled road vehicles	<i>Article 1 (2) (e) – 2nd indent</i>	§54
- 2 and 3 wheeled road vehicles	<i>Article 1 (2) (e) – 3rd indent</i>	§55
Roll-over and tip-over	<i>Annex I – Section 3.4.3</i>	§315
- Roll-over protective structures (ROPS)	<i>Annex IV – Item 22</i>	§388
	<i>Annex V – Item 14</i>	§389
Ropes, chains and webbing for lifting (definition)	<i>Article 1 (1) (e) & Article 2 (e)</i>	§44
- lifting machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.4</i>	§340
- lifting accessories and components	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.5</i>	§341
- information and markings	<i>Annex I – Section 4.3.1</i>	§357
- lifting of persons	<i>Annex I – Section 6.1.1</i>	§369
Rough surfaces	<i>Annex I – Section 1.3.4</i>	§209
Rubber moulding machinery	<i>Annex IV – Item 11</i>	§388

S

Safeguard clause	<i>Article 11</i>	§122
- procedure	<i>Article 11 (2) & (3)</i>	§123
- shortcomings in harmonised standards	<i>Article 11 (4)</i>	§124
- outcome	<i>Article 11 (6)</i>	§126
Safety components (definition)	<i>Article 1 (1) (c) & Article 2 (c)</i>	§42
- indicative list	<i>Annex V</i>	§389
- spare parts to replace identical components (exclusion)	<i>Article 1 (2) (a)</i>	§48
- updating of indicative list	<i>Article 8 (1) (a)</i>	§116
- to detect persons	<i>Annex IV – Item 19</i>	§388
- for machinery serving fixed landings	<i>Annex V – Item 17</i>	§389
Safety fences as safety components		§411
Sale of machinery (placing on the market)	<i>Article 2 (h)</i>	§74
Scope of the Machinery Directive	<i>Article 1 (1) & Article 2</i>	§32 to §46
Scrapping (phase of lifetime of machinery)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.2 (a)</i>	§173
Seagoing vessels (exclusion)	<i>Article 1 (2) (f)</i>	§58
Seating	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.8</i>	§183
- mobile machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 3.2.2</i>	§295
Selection of control or operating modes	<i>Annex I – Section 1.2.5</i>	§204
Serial number (marking of machinery)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.3</i>	§250
Series or type (marking of machinery)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.3</i>	§250
Servicing points (access)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.6.2</i>	§240
Setting mode (selection)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.2.5</i>	§204
Sharp edges or angles	<i>Annex I – Section 1.3.4</i>	§209
Signs, signals and warnings (mobility)	<i>Annex I – Section 3.6.1</i>	§323
Slipping, tripping and falling	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.15</i>	§237
- carrier serving fixed landings	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.8.2</i>	§346
Software which performs safety function	<i>Article 2</i>	§ 42
Social partners (participation in standardisation)	<i>Article 7 (4)</i>	§115
Spare parts (instructions)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (t)</i>	§272
Special equipment and accessories	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.2 (e)</i>	§177
Stabilisers (movement of mobile machinery)	<i>Annex I – Section 3.3.2</i>	§305

Stability	<i>Annex I – Section 1.3.1</i>	§206
- installation instructions	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (i)</i>	§264
- conditions of stability	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (o)</i>	§269
- portable machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 2.2.1</i>	§278
- woodworking machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 2.3 (a)</i>	§281
- mobile machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 3.4.1</i>	§313
- lifting machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.1</i>	§335
- powered roof supports	<i>Annex I – Section 5.1</i>	§363
- machinery for lifting persons	<i>Annex I – Section 6.1.2</i>	§370
Standard (definition of harmonised standard)	<i>Article 2 (l)</i>	§87
- the New Approach	<i>Recital 18</i>	§20
- formal objection	<i>Recital 11</i>	§13
	<i>Article 10</i>	§119 to §121
Starting	<i>Annex I – Section 1.2.3</i>	§199
- mobile machinery with ride-on driver	<i>Annex I – Section 3.3.2</i>	§304
- unintentional movement while starting the engine	<i>Annex I – Section 3.3.2</i>	§306
State of the art	<i>Recital 14</i>	§16
	<i>Annex I – General Principle 3</i>	§161 & §162
Static electricity	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.2</i>	§223
- discharge systems (safety components)	<i>Annex V – Item 11</i>	§389
Static test (definition)	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.1 (e)</i>	§332
- coefficients	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.3</i>	§338
- fitness for purpose	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.3</i>	§351
Steering (mobility)		
- control devices	<i>Annex I – Section 3.3.1</i>	§302
- power-assisted steering	<i>Annex I – Section 3.3.5</i>	§312
Steps (means of access to mobile machinery)	<i>Annex I – Section 3.4.5</i>	§317
Stopping	<i>Annex I – Section 1.2.4</i>	§200 to §203
- normal stop	<i>Annex I – Section 1.2.4.1</i>	§200
- operational stop	<i>Annex I – Section 1.2.4.2</i>	§201
- emergency stop	<i>Annex I – Section 1.2.4.3</i>	§202
- assemblies of machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 1.2.4.4</i>	§203
- run down time (woodworking)	<i>Annex I – Section 2.3 (c)</i>	§281
- mobile machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 3.3.3</i>	§307
- machinery for underground working	<i>Annex I – Section 5.4</i>	§365
Stopping accuracy (machinery serving fixed landings)	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.8.2</i>	§346
Surface planing machinery (hand-fed)	<i>Annex IV – Item 2</i>	§388
Switchgear and control gear (exclusion)		
- low voltage	<i>Article 1 (2) (k) – 5th indent</i>	§68
- high voltage	<i>Article 1 (2) (l)</i>	§70

T

Technical Committees (CEN & CENELEC)	<i>Article 7 (2)</i>	§112
Technical file	<i>Recital 24</i>	§25
- manufacturer's obligation	<i>Article 5 (1) (b)</i>	§103
- person authorised to compile	<i>Annex II 1 A (2)</i>	§383
- procedure for compiling	<i>Annex VII A</i>	§391
- content	<i>Annex VII A 1</i>	§392
- communication	<i>Annex VII A 2 & 3</i>	§393
Temperatures (extreme)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.5</i>	§226
Tenoning machinery (hand-fed)	<i>Annex IV – Item 6</i>	§388
Test coefficient (definition)	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.1 (d)</i>	§331
- static tests	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.3</i>	§338
- dynamic tests	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.3</i>	§339

Thicknessers	<i>Annex IV – Item 3</i>	§388
Tip-over and roll-over (ROPS and TOPS)	<i>Annex I – Section 3.4.3</i>	§315
Tools		
- not interchangeable equipment	<i>Article 2 (b)</i>	§41
- risk of break-up during operation	<i>Annex I – Sections 1.3.2 & 1.3.3</i>	§207 & §208
- instructions on tools to be fitted	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (n)</i>	§268
Towing devices	<i>Annex I – Section 3.4.6</i>	§318
- marking of coupling hook	<i>Annex I – Section 3.6.3</i>	§324
Toys Directive (2009/48/EC)	<i>Article 3</i>	§90
Tracks (guide rails)	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.2</i>	§336
Tracks and wheels (mobility))	<i>Annex I – Section 3.2.1</i>	§294
Tractors (exclusion)	<i>Recital 8</i>	§11
	<i>Article 1 (2) (e)</i>	§53
Trade fairs, exhibitions and demonstrations	<i>Recital 17</i>	§19
	<i>Article 6 (3)</i>	§108
Training	<i>Article 15</i>	§140
- indication of necessary training	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.2</i>	§174
- instructions for training	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (k)</i>	§266
Transformers – high voltage (exclusion)	<i>Article 1 (2) (l)</i>	§70
Transition period (portable cartridge-operated fixing and other impact machinery)	<i>Article 27</i>	§154
Translation (instructions)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.1</i>	§257
Transmission parts	<i>Annex I – Section 1.3.8.1</i>	§213
- engine (mobility)	<i>Annex I – Section 3.4.2</i>	§314
Transport		
- phase of lifetime of machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.2 (a)</i>	§173
- conditions of stability	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (o)</i>	§269
- instructions for safe transport	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (p)</i>	§270
Transposition into national law	<i>Article 26</i>	§153
Trapping risk	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.14</i>	§236
Travel movements (mobility)	<i>Annex I – Section 3.3.2</i>	§304
Travel zone (machinery serving fixed landings)	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.8.3</i>	§347
Tripping (slipping and falling)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.15</i>	§237
- carrier of machinery serving fixed landings	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.8.2</i>	§346
Two-hand control devices	<i>Annex I – Section 1.4.3</i>	§221
- safety components	<i>Annex V – Item 16</i>	§389

U

Unauthorised use of controls	<i>Annex I – Section 3.3</i>	§297
Uncontrolled movements	<i>Annex I – Section 1.3.9</i>	§215
- mobile machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 3.4.1</i>	§313
Underground work (machinery intended for)	<i>Annex I – Part 5</i>	§362 to 367
Use of machinery	<i>Recital 12</i>	§14
- national regulations	<i>Article 15</i>	§139 & §140
- instructions	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (k)</i>	§265
User		
- protective measures to be taken by	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.2 (b)</i>	§174
- instructions	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (m)</i>	§267
- maintenance operations to be carried out by	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (r)</i>	§272

V

Valves (safety components)	<i>Annex V – Item 5</i>	§389
Vehicles (exclusion)		
- 4 wheeled road vehicles	<i>Article 1 (2) (e) – 2nd indent</i>	§54
- 2 and 3 wheeled road vehicles	<i>Article 1 (2) (e) – 3rd indent</i>	§55
- intended for competition	<i>Article 1 (2) (e) – 4th indent</i>	§56
Vehicle servicing lifts	<i>Annex IV – Item 16</i>	§388
Vertical Groups of Notified Bodies (VGs)	<i>Article 14 (7)</i>	§137
Vertical spindle moulding machinery (hand-fed)	<i>Annex IV – Item 7</i>	§388
Vibrations		
- reduction of emission	<i>Annex I – Section 1.5.9</i>	§231
- seating	<i>Annex I – Section 1.1.8</i>	§183
- installation and assembly	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (j)</i>	§264
- declaration for portable machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 2.2.1.1</i>	§279
- declaration for mobile machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 3.6.3.1</i>	§325
- assembly and installation instructions	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.2 (j)</i>	§264
- sales literature	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.4.3</i>	§275
- reduction devices and systems	<i>Annex V – Item 13</i>	§389
Video and audio equipment (exclusion)	<i>Article 1 (2) (k) – 2nd indent</i>	§65
Visibility of danger zones		
- from control positions	<i>Annex I – Section 1.2.2</i>	§195
- from the driving position (mobility)	<i>Annex I – Section 3.2.1</i>	§294
Visual and acoustic signals (warning devices)	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.1.2</i>	§248
- reversing (mobility)	<i>Annex I – Section 3.3.1</i>	§303

W

Warnings		
- on the machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.1</i>	§245 & §246
- warning devices	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.1.2</i>	§248
- warning of residual risks	<i>Annex I – Section 1.7.2</i>	§249
- reversing (mobility)	<i>Annex I – Section 3.3.1</i>	§303
- warnings, signs and signals (mobility)	<i>Annex I – Section 3.6.1</i>	§323
Weapons (exclusion)	<i>Recital 6</i>	§9
	<i>Article 1 (2) (d)</i>	§51
Webbing (definition)	<i>Article 1 (1) (e) & Article 2 (e)</i>	§44
- lifting accessories and components	<i>Annex I – Sections 4.1.2.5</i>	§341
- information and markings	<i>Annex I – Section 4.3.1</i>	§357
Wheels (lifting)	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.4</i>	§340
Wheels and tracks (mobility)	<i>Annex I – Section 3.2.1</i>	§294
Withdrawal of certificates or decisions issued by Notified Bodies	<i>Article 14 (6)</i>	§135
- EC type-examination certificate	<i>Annex IX 9</i>	§400
- approval of a full quality assurance system	<i>Annex X 3</i>	§406
Withdrawal of notification of a Notified Body	<i>Article 14 (8)</i>	§138
Woodworking machinery	<i>Annex I – Section 2.3</i>	§281
	<i>Annex IV – Items 1 to 8</i>	§388
Work equipment (use of)	<i>Article 15</i>	§140
Working coefficient (definition)	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.1 (c)</i>	§330
- ropes and chains	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.4</i>	§340
- lifting accessories and components	<i>Annex I – Section 4.1.2.5</i>	§341
- lifting of persons	<i>Annex I – Section 6.1.1</i>	§369

Y

Year of construction (marking of machinery)

Annex I – Section 1.7.3

§250
