What You Need to Know About Regulation (EU) 2017/745

Changes in the classification of devices

The MDR introduces new classification rules, based on which manufacturers must determine the risk class of their devices. In doing so, manufacturers should be aware that these risk classes may differ from the class assigned under the MDD, e.g., devices may have been ‘up-classified’ from Class I to Class IIa/IIb/III. To classify a device under the MDR, the intended purpose of the device and its inherent risks should be taken into account.¹

New requirements for manufacturers of Class I medical devices

Manufacturers that intend to place Class I medical devices on the market must guarantee compliance with all the applicable requirements of the MDR. The necessary steps to ensure compliance are detailed in MDCG 2019-15 rev.1 and are summarised below.

¹ Please consult Article 51 and Annex VIII of the MDR for classification rules
The applicable provisions of the MDR should be integrated into the Quality Management System (QMS) of the manufacturer.

Compliance with the general obligations for manufacturers as per Article 10 of the MDR should be demonstrated.

The device should bear a CE mark, in compliance with Annex V of the MDR.

Registration of both the manufacturer and the device in Eudamed is required.

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After placing the device on the market, the manufacturer is responsible for:
- Reviewing experience gained from post market surveillance (PMS);
- Reporting all serious incidents and field safety corrective actions (FSCA) to the relevant CAs according to the required procedure, and conducting all relevant investigations;
- Taking immediate necessary action if there is reason to believe that a device placed on the market or put into service is not in conformity with the MDR.

Some of the described requirements are inter-independent and can be performed in a different order than the one presented.

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Frequently Asked Questions

1. How long is the transition period for MDD Class I devices that will require the involvement of a notified body for the first time under the MDR?

The Transitional Provisions established under Article 120 of the MDR also apply to Class I devices that were Class I under the MDD and will require the intervention of a notified body for the first time under the MDR. Under certain conditions, these devices can continue to be placed on the market until May 2024. After that date, the device can continue to be made available on the market via distributors, or put into service by end-users, until 27 May 2025.

2. When do MDD Class I medical devices that remain as Class I under the MDR need to meet the requirements of the MDR?

Class I medical devices placed on the market under the MDD, that continue to be Class I under the MDR, will need to comply with MDR requirements as of 26 May 2021.

3. Are instructions for use always required for Class I devices?

For Class I medical devices, it may not be necessary for instructions for use to accompany the device IF it can be used safely without the provision of such instructions (Annex I, Section 23.1(d)). In general, it is expected that instructions for use should accompany the device, unless the manufacturer can demonstrate safe and effective use without such instructions.

4. What are the language requirements for labels and instructions for use?

Manufacturers should ensure that the device is accompanied by information for labels and instructions for use in an official European Union language(s), as determined by the Member State in which the device is made available to the user or patient - MDR Article 10(11).

5. Does the MDR apply to accessories, parts or components of Class I medical devices?

Yes. The regulatory status of accessories of medical devices in the MDR is the same as it was under the MDD. If a product meets the definition of an “accessory for a medical device” (MDR Article 2(2)), the MDR applies and all of the requirements applicable to devices will apply.

It is worth noting that under the MDR (Article 22) parts and components of medical devices (including Class I) may be considered as devices in themselves, if claimed as such by the manufacturer and if specifically intended to replace a part or component of a device.

In addition, MDCG 2019-15 rev.1 outlines requirements applicable to devices of all risk classifications, including Class I. Noteworthy among these are the following:

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Manufacturers based in non-EU countries need to appoint an authorised representative based in an EU Member State before their device can be placed on the market. In all cases, manufacturers should identify a person responsible for regulatory compliance.

UDI-labelling applies to all devices, and will be required for Class I devices from 26 May 2025 (26 May 2027 for Class Ir).