

Information regarding Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC

The Wire Rope Association, represented by Mrs. Schillings, Executive Secretary, and Members of the Technical Commission, had a meeting with Mr. Ian Fraser of the EU Commission in Brussels in February 2010. Some European Rope Manufacturers as well as German Manufacturers of chains and lifting accessories were also present.

The following statements are the results of the discussion between Wire Rope Manufacturers and the European Commission. The most important topics of the meeting were the long-lasting marking of Ropes, language and lay out of operating instructions.

The consulting results are summarized in § 44 of Guide to application of Directive 2006/42/EC (published in June 2010).

- The use of pictograms for operating instructions has been confirmed as a generally understandable, permissible solution.
- The requirements, mentioned in Article 5(1), regarding
 - CE Marking
 - Certificate of Conformity
 - Operating Instructionsapply to (...) Ropes (...) only if those Ropes are placed into circulation for the first time.
- Fabricators are not obliged to label Ropes with the CE Marking because they are not Manufacturers of Ropes in the meaning of the Machinery Directive. The obligation to label slings remains unaffected.
- Cut lengths are to be treated as a machinery into which they will be assembled =>the documentation of the Rope MANUFACTURER in order to fulfill the requirements of article 5(1) are relevant only for the period between Rope production and Rope assembly into a hoisting device.

Subsequently the rope becomes part of the hoisting device.

Any further advice regarding inspection, maintenance and use of ropes after assembly is part of the responsibility of the producer of the hoisting device.

Düsseldorf, January 2011