

# Facts about the Low Voltage Directive

<b>Number:</b>	73/23/EEC.
<b>Name:</b>	Council Directive 73/23/EEC of 19 February 1973 on the harmonization of the laws of Member States relating to electrical equipment designed for use within certain voltage limits.
<b>Amendments:</b>	Directive 93/68/EEC on CE-marking.
<b>Scope:</b>	All electrical equipment, rated for use at a working voltage of 50 - 1000 VAC and 75 - 1500 VDC.
<b>Essential requirements:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Protection against electrical shock.</li><li>2. Protection against burns and the spread of fire</li></ol>
<b>Harmon. standard:</b>	EN 61 010-1, Safety requirements for electrical equipment for measurement, control and laboratory use.
<b>Classification:</b>	<p>The documentation must indicate which classes from the standard the equipment has been designed and tested for:</p> <p><b>Installation category (overvoltage category):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I: Signal level, telecommunication, electronics, typically supplied by a local power supply.</li><li>II: Local level, appliances, typically supplied by a fuse box.</li><li>III: Distribution level, fixed installation, typically distribution panels.</li><li>IV: Primary supply level, overhead lines, cables etc.</li></ul> <p><b>Protection class:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I: Basic insulation, requires protective grounding (earth).</li><li>II: Reinforced insulation, double insulation. Marked with the "double square" symbol.</li><li>III: Equipment to be connected to SELV circuits only.</li></ul> <p><b>Pollution degree:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1: No pollution or only dry, non-conductive pollution.</li><li>2: Normally only non-conductive pollution. Occasionally a temporary conductivity caused by condensation.</li></ul>

**PR classification:** Installation category II, Protection class II, Pollution degree 1.

**Documentation:** Accompanying safety documentation must e.g. include: equipment ratings, installation instruction, equipment operation, warnings against safety hazards.

Rønde, January 8, 1997  
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