

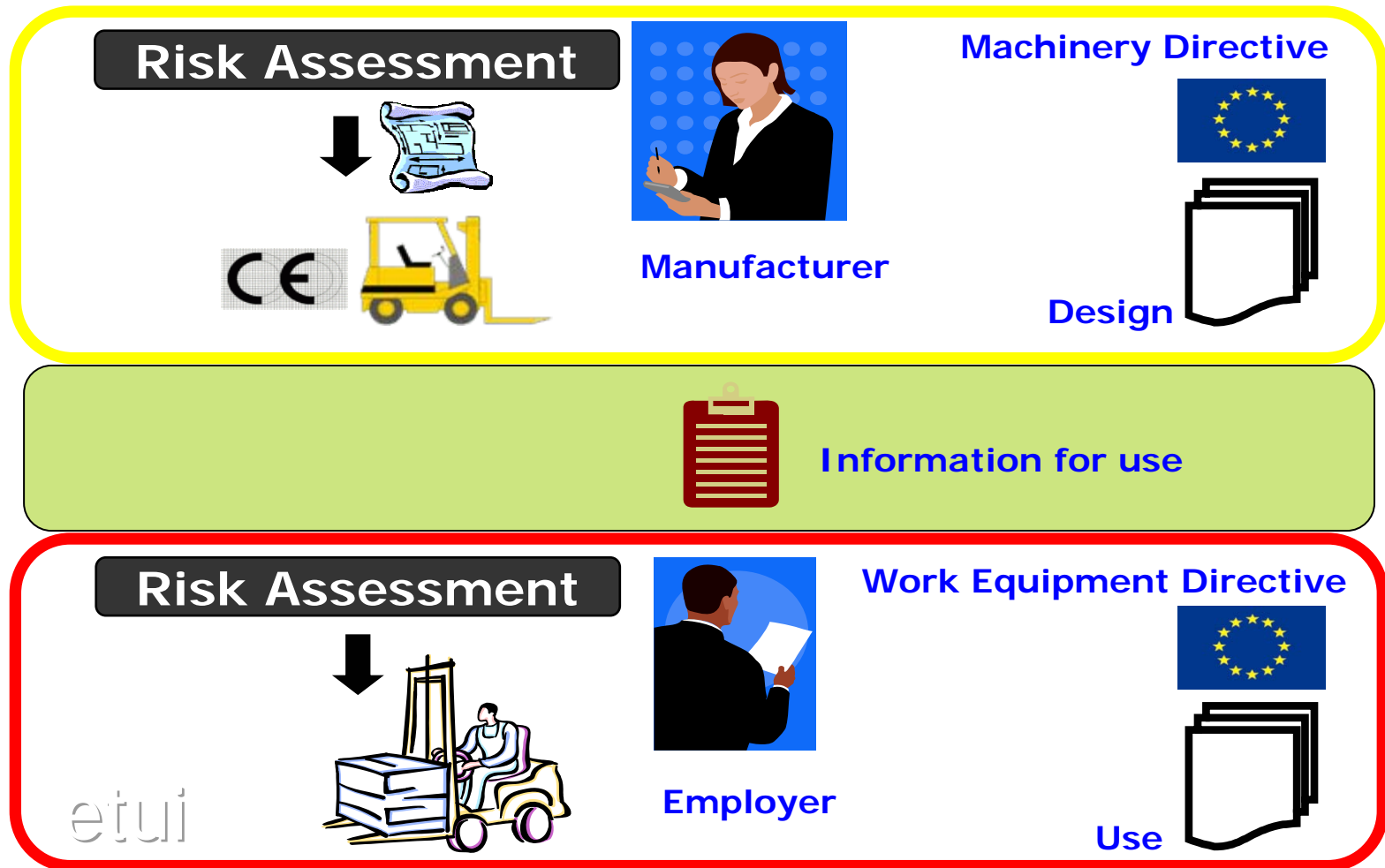
**WITHOUT A CORRECT RISK ASSESSMENT
MACHINERY CANNOT BE INTEGRATED SAFELY IN
THE WORKPLACE**

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Risk assessment for safe integration of machinery in the workplace

Manufacturer versus employer



Risk assessment for safe integration of machinery in the workplace

Machinery must be designed for safety

- New machinery must be “safe”.
- This is a duty of the machinery “manufacturer”. He must apply the legislation, today mainly EU Directives, with here in the first place the Machinery Directive.
- This means that, at least in principle, the machine user buying a machine can expect that the new machine offers an acceptable safety level for the intended use and conditions of use.

 = safety???

Note: Conformity to the Machinery Directive is also an obligation for second hand machinery imported in the EU and for machinery built by the user for its own use.

Risk assessment for safe integration of machinery in the workplace

Some general obligations of the employer

- The **general principles of prevention** formulated in the Framework Directive on safety and health at work include “avoiding the risks” and “evaluating the risks which cannot be avoided” (article 6.2.a) of 89/391/EEC).
- It is a general obligation for the employer to take the measures necessary to **ensure that the work equipment made available to workers** in the undertaking and/or establishment is suitable for the work to be carried out or properly adapted for that purpose and **may be used by workers without impairment to their safety or health**. (article 3 of the Work equipment Directive 89/655/EEC).

Therefore the employer must **select work equipment on the basis of an assessment** of the specific working conditions and characteristics and the hazards that may exist.

If necessary the employer shall take appropriate measures to minimise the risks.

Risk assessment for safe integration of machinery in the workplace

Some general obligations of the employer: practical application

When introducing machinery in the work place two crucial moments are:

- **The selection of the appropriate equipment** when ordering or buying machinery. At that moment the specific safety aspects should be defined by the risk assessment and the corresponding specifications should be part of the purchase documents.

For important projects or processes with particular hazards the risk assessment should be started in an early stage, including the evaluation of the feasibility of the project.

- **The verification of sufficient safety at the putting into service** of the machinery. **This sufficient safety is not automatically fulfilled by the presence of CE marking on the machinery.** This verification requires risk assessment.

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Machinery with CE marking: Aspects to be verified by the user

Main aspects that should be verified before putting a machine into service:

- **Manufacturer's "guarantees":**
 - Presence and quality of the declaration of conformity
 - Possible striking safety problems
 - Presence of the required instructions, mains items dealt with, language(s)

- **Local conditions and hazards ("evaluation of the residual risks")**
 - Location and installation of the machine
 - Respect of the manufacturer's instructions (intended use, correct use...)
 - Possible need for additional specific instructions
 - Possible need for specific qualifications and training of the users
 - Necessary (periodical) safety inspections or tests

Risk assessment for safe integration of machinery in the workplace

Machinery not covered by CE marking: Aspects to be verified by user

Main aspects that should be verified before putting a machine into service:

- Verification of the specifications of the machine and adequacy for the intended use
- Information on conformity references used by the manufacturer (if available)
- Conformity to the safety requirements specified when ordering
- **Assessment of the safety of the machine and the conformity to the rules (in the first place the minimum requirements for work equipment),** with evaluation of the residual risks
- Presence of correct manufacturer's instructions (specified when ordering?) and observation of the instructions (intended use, correct use, ...)
- Possible need for additional specific instructions
- Location and installation of the machine
- Possible need for specific qualifications and training of the users
- Necessary (periodical) safety inspections or tests

Risk assessment for safe integration of machinery in the workplace

Conclusions

- **When integrating machinery in the workplace, due care (if not legislation) includes a risk assessment of the machinery and its use in the specific conditions.**
- **This risk assessment is among others essential when ordering the machinery and when putting it into service: “someone” must have taken explicitly the responsibility for safety and conformity of the it.**
- **Additional assessments may be necessary:**
 - When “new” hazards or hazardous situations are detected (among others at the occasion of an accident or incident) (and everyone can and should contribute to such detection and the consequent action).
 - Periodically (the need for periodical assessments should be considered at the putting into service).