How to Verify a CE Certificate in 5 Steps

Five checks that catch almost every fake, expired or mismatched certificate — run them before you pay the deposit.

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How to Verify a CE Certificate in 5 Steps

A practical checklist for importers — run it before you place the order, not after the shipment lands.

Why this matters

CE marking is, for most chargers and power strips, a **self-declaration** by the manufacturer. No government body approves it in advance. That system works — but it also means fake, copied and mismatched "CE certificates" are common.

The good news: a fake or mismatched certificate almost always fails one of five simple checks. This sheet takes about 10 minutes to run.

☐ Step 1 — Check which directives it actually covers

What to do: Look at the certificate and list the directives by number, not by name.

For a charger you should see most of these:

Directive	What it covers
2014/35/EU	LVD — Low Voltage (safety)
2014/30/EU	EMC — Electromagnetic compatibility
2011/65/EU + 2015/863	RoHS — Hazardous substances
(EU) 2019/1782	ErP — Energy efficiency (external power supplies)
EC 1907/2006	REACH — Chemicals (SVHC)
2012/19/EU	WEEE — Take-back / recycling

🚩 **Red flag:** a single page that says only "CE certified" with no directive numbers. CE is not one certificate — if they can't tell you which directives, they probably didn't test for all of them.

☐ Step 2 — Check who issued it

What to do: Find the issuing body's name on the certificate. Then ask one question: **is this a Notified Body, or a commercial testing lab?**

- A **Notified Body** has a 4-digit number (e.g. NB 0123) and appears in the EU's NANDO database — searchable by anyone.
- A **commercial lab** (TÜV, SGS, Intertek, BV and many others) can issue perfectly valid test reports. That is normal and legitimate.
- What is **not** legitimate is a certificate from a body that does not exist, or one whose name is a near-copy of a famous lab.

🚩 **Red flag:** the issuing body has no verifiable website, or the logo looks like a slightly-off copy of a known brand.

☐ Step 3 — Verify the certificate number with the issuer

What to do: Take the certificate number and check it directly with the issuing body — most have an online verification page, or you can email them.

Also check:

- ☐ Issue date and expiry date (many are valid for 1–5 years)
- ☐ The certificate holder's **legal name** — does it match the company you are buying from?

🚩 **Red flag:** the supplier says "our agent handles it" and cannot produce the certificate holder's name, or refuses to let you verify directly.

☐ Step 4 — Match the model number to what you are actually buying

This is the most common real-world problem, and it is usually not fraud — just carelessness.

What to do: Compare, character by character:

- ☐ Model number on the certificate **=** model number on your quotation and on the product label
- ☐ Input / output ratings (e.g. `Input: 100–240 V ~ 50/60 Hz, 0.5 A` / `Output: 5 V⎓3 A, 9 V⎓3 A, 20 V⎓3.25 A`)
- ☐ Series coverage: if the certificate lists `Q366, Q408, Q605`, is your model in that list?

🚩 **Red flag:** the certificate is for a similar-looking model from the same factory, but not yours. A "family certificate" only helps if your model is named in it.

☐ Step 5 — Ask for the test report, not just the certificate

This is the step most buyers skip, and it is the one that tells you the most.

A certificate is a summary. A **test report** contains the actual data: photos of the sample, measured values, applied standards, pass/fail results and the model tested.

Ask for:

- ☐ The full test report (EMC + LVD separately — they are different tests)
- ☐ The standard number and version — for chargers this should be **EN IEC 62368-1**, not the retired EN 60950-1
- ☐ Photos of the tested sample (compare to the product you will receive)

🚩 **Red flag:** "we can only send the certificate, the report is confidential." Test reports are routinely shared with buyers. Refusal usually means the report does not match the product.

Three red flags that should end the conversation

1. **The certificate shows a standard that has been retired.** If you see `EN 60950-1` as the current safety standard for a charger in 2026, the document is out of date. The current standard is **EN IEC 62368-1**.
2. **The supplier claims "CE approved by the EU."** No EU authority approves CE marking for these products. It is a manufacturer's declaration. A supplier who describes it as government approval either misunderstands it or is hoping you do.
3. **Everything is in one blurred photo, and no document is machine-readable.** You cannot verify what you cannot read. Ask for the PDF.

One-page summary

#	Check	Pass condition
1	Directives listed	Numbers present: LVD / EMC / RoHS at minimum
2	Issuing body	Verifiable — Notified Body number or known lab
3	Certificate number	Checkable with issuer; holder name matches supplier
4	Model & ratings	Exact match to your quotation and product label
5	Test report	Provided, with EN IEC 62368-1 and sample photos

If any step fails, ask before you pay the deposit — not after production.

Compiled November 2026. Requirements change — always confirm against the current official text.

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Not sure about a certificate you've been sent? Send it over — I'll run these five checks on it.

> ### Questions about a specific market or model?
>
> Send me your model number and target market — I'll tell you which documents you're missing.
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>
> Certificates and complete test reports available on request.

Compiled November 2026. Standards and regulations change — always confirm against current official requirements for your market and product. Pin layouts in the chart are simplified front-face schematics for identification, not dimensional drawings.