

Purchasing PPE during the COVID-19 Pandemic

How to identify non-compliant
and/or falsely certified PPE

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic there has been a huge influx of respirators and other PPE being offered in the UK from new suppliers. Unfortunately, many are non-compliant, they have not been tested and certified and may not be capable of providing appropriate respiratory protection for workers. There is also evidence of PPE which is accompanied by false documentation, containing false CE Marketing & Declarations of Conformity.

This guide has been compiled to advise you how to identify non-compliant, and / or falsely certified PPE.



Step 1: Ask for the correct supporting documentation

When sourcing PPE from a new source, it is advisable to ask for two documents:

1. A CE Certificate

A CE Certificate is compulsory for all PPE products placed on the UK market. It informs that the product meets the essential requirements relating to safety, public health consumer protection and other aspects laid down in the directives

It is not a legal requirement to supply CE Certificate with an item of PPE, however have doubts about a new source of PPE then it could be worth requesting one. Most suppliers will provide a certificate to prove compliance and certification.

2. An (EU) Declaration of Conformity

The Declaration of Conformity is a statement by the manufacturer that the PPE specified on the document complies with the requirements of the relevant legislation – (EU) PPE Regulation 2016/425.

The Declaration of Conformity can be an individual document that is provided with the PPE, or the user instructions must contain an internet address at which the (EU) Declaration of Conformity can be downloaded.

Suppliers MUST provide the Declaration of Conformity, that has been issued by the manufacturer, with a product. It is illegal to supply a product without a Declaration of Conformity.

How to check a CE Certificate – 10 pieces of information to look for

Follow the steps shown to determine whether the CE Certificate is genuine and legal, and if not, report it to a relevant surveillance body.

1. **Check the CE Certificate** contains the 10 pieces of information below
2. **If unsure, confirm the certificate's authenticity** by contacting the notified body named. Find a full list of EU notified bodies at <https://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/nando/index.cfm?>
3. **If you believe the certificate to be false report it** to a relevant surveillance body

10 elements that should appear on a CE Certificate

1. Certificate number or reference

- Plus, a statement it remains the property of the notified body

Information about the Regulation

2. A statement that the PPE certified is in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/425

Information about Product and Manufacturer

3. Product(s) Information

- A description
- SKU number or code
- Specifications

4. Manufacturer's Information

- Full name
- Address
- Test report references

Information about the EU Notified Body

5. Notified Body's Information

- Name
- Four-digit number

6. Evidence Notified Body is in the EU

- Address of the Notified Body

7. Certifying Individual's

- Name
- Signature

Relevant Dates

8. Date of expiry

- max. 5 years after date of issue

9. Date of issue

- Generally after 29th April 2018 - although RPE may have been issued before this date

Terms & Conditions

10. Terms & conditions

- Additional page
- Link

How to check a Declaration of Conformity – the information to look for

Follow the steps shown to determine whether the Declaration of Conformity is genuine and legal, and if not, report it to a relevant surveillance body.

1. **Check the CE Certificate** contains the information below
2. **If you have doubts about the report raise it with the manufacturer or the authorised representative or distributor.**

Information that should appear on a declaration of conformity- Information about the Manufacturer and Product

Product(s) Information

- Description
- SKU or code
- Type of PPE

Manufacturer's Information

- Full name
- Address
- Authorised representative if relevant

Individual from Manufacturer's

- Name
- Signature

A statement that the declaration been issued under the sole responsibility of the manufacturer.

Information about Regulation, Standards and Technical Specifications

Statement PPE certified & issued

- Is in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/425

Harmonised Standard(s)

- Including date of standard(s)

Technical Specifications

- Including date of specification (If applicable)

EU type certificates

- Relevant reference numbers
- Statement relating to a conformity assessment procedure Module C2 or Module D

Information about Notified Bodies

Notified Bodies Details

- That performed the EU Type Examination
- Name
- Four digit number

Notified Bodies Details

- That provides the surveillance of the conformity assessment procedure
- Name
- Four digit number