

CE Certificate Checklist

Are you sure that your personal protective equipment (PPE) is legal and its CE compliance certificate is genuine and relates directly to the performance of the equipment.

In the UK there are a number of reported cases of non-compliant and by definition, illegal items of PPE being placed in the market. Counterfeit PPE and Counterfeit CE compliance certificates are on the increase, with well established brands and notified bodies (authorised test houses) being the primary targets. The issue of counterfeit and illegal products is very serious. Often these products do not perform as they should, endangering lives and exposing an organisation to a risk of prosecution.

To help combat this ever increasing problem, the British Safety Industry Federation has created the Registered Safety Supplier scheme to signpost PPE users to reliable suppliers. In addition, in conjunction with the notified bodies, we have established links with Government to highlight fake and incorrect certificates and have these removed. This leaflet offers advice on how to check if the certificate for your PPE is genuine and what to do if you are concerned.



How easy is it to spot a counterfeit, illegal or incorrect CE Certificate?

Did you know that all PPE must be supplied with instructions for use and be appropriately tested and marked with a CE marking? Without it the product is illegal to use as protective equipment in the workplace

Did you know that you can (and probably should) request to see the CE Certificate relating to any PPE?

Did you know that there is a requirement for all certificates to contain a number of pieces of information? Without these you should be suspicious.

Did you know that you can phone the notified body relating to any certificate and confirm its authenticity?

To assist specifiers and users of PPE to spot fake or illegal CE Certificates, experts from within the BSIF have created the following easy to use checklist. Further copies can be downloaded from www.bsif.co.uk

Certificate Checklist

Checklist	Yes	No
Does the certificate clearly contain the notified body's name and number? (4 digits)		
Is the notified body from within the EU? There are few non EU notified bodies and therefore caution should be taken		
Does the certificate show signs of tampering, i.e. differing fonts and sizes, colour changes etc?		
Does the certificate contain a date and notified body signature? (generally an individual)		
Does the certificate have its terms and conditions included? (it should)		
Does the certificate show a clear description of the product, including model references, specifications and test references?		
Does the certificate state that it is an EC type-examination certificate?		
Does the certificate include a manufacturers name and address?		
If a validity period is stated on the certificate, is it still current?		

It is a requirement that the PPE instructions are precise, comprehensible and provided at least in the language of the country in which it is sold. CE certificates will be in the language of the country the notified body operates from and may also be in English (although this is not a requirement).

More information can be found at www.ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/mechanical/legislation/personal-protective-equipment

If you have answered 'No' to one or more of these questions then you should immediately contact your PPE suppliers for advice. You can also speak directly to the notified body for confirmation of the validity of the certificate. If you are still uncertain why not give the team at BSIF a call on 01442 248744 and they will do their best to help.

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