

BSiF Member Newsletter



BSiF
BRITISH SAFETY INDUSTRY FEDERATION

April 2020



GOLDTRAINING

www.goldrto.com



BSiF
BRITISH SAFETY INDUSTRY FEDERATION

COVID 19 and PPE



As we started 2020 I remember thinking ahead and considering what the main challenges would be facing the safety and health industry after Brexit.

Other information though, was coming out of the far east at that time, the impact of which we really did not appreciate. The news was of course, the reporting of the emergence of the novel corona virus, now renamed COVID 19.

The virus, originated in Wuhan, China, in late December 2019 and the lockdown action that the Chinese government took to contain the disease had immediate impacts for PPE production and availability. Wuhan and Hubei are significant producers of respiratory protective equipment and limited life coveralls.

The warning signs for the supply chain were emerging, and the disease was spreading, with the World Health Organisation (WHO) declaring a global public health emergency on the 30th of January.

In early February BSIF began to make the UK authorities aware of the potential shortage, focussing our communication on the effects on Industry, our primary area of activity. What was not anticipated was the rate of spread of the virus or the level of

disruption that it would create.

As we publish this newsletter the UK is in lockdown with all but essential work closed and the whole of industry is attempting to source appropriate PPE for the amazing workers in healthcare and social care.

The lack of availability of PPE required to protect people especially front line healthcare staff began to become obvious to the authorities by the first week of March. By the 5th of March EU states including France, Germany, Italy and the Czech Republic had imposed export bans of (RPE Masks, Eye and Face protection Gloves and Limited Life Workwear) the products needed in the battle against COVID 19. This exacerbated an already difficult situation as the supply of PPE, already significantly interrupted, faced an exponential increase in demand.

The European Safety Federation, of which BSIF holds the Presidency, protested to the EU Commission making it clear that the extraordinary closing of borders would make the supply of PPE even more difficult. On the 9th of March ESF published and supplied the Commission with the document "The impact of COVID 19 virus on the PPE market", seeking to have normal trading routes restored to enable the products to get to where they were required. The closing of national borders meant that many PPE suppliers could not now follow their central warehousing and logistics models if the facilities were located in countries, which had applied export bans. Nor could PPE even transit that country to get to a 3rd country destination as that would have seen their stocks withheld.

While these actions were taking place the EU Commission, through contacts supplied, was reaching out to manufacturers of PPE asking them

directly about the status of their stocks, their production capabilities and their willingness to participate in an EU controlled procurement programme.

By mid - March the UK Government had set up a Cabinet Office led team, to try to get the necessary PPE for healthcare workers. BSIF has been front and centre with this initiative liaising and advising between the Cabinet Office, BEIS, HSE and Trading Standards.

At the time of writing the UK has just announced that we will accept the EU Commission Recommendation 2020 403 on conformity assessment of COVID relevant PPE which is in fact a light touch approach to product approvals. This will enable products which have not completed the full EN approvals under 2016/425 to be placed on the market. But importantly this is **only for products to be sold to healthcare workers and also importantly the process in 2020 403 must be followed**. All information is available on the BSIF website www.bsif.co.uk

As ever in a crisis situation we are seeing a surge in non - compliant product being offered supported by extravagantly counterfeit documentation. It is vital that everyone remembers that PPE must be adequate to protect the individual from a hazard and suitable for the individual. If these conditions are not met individuals will not get the protection they need and deserve.

Despite the shortages we implore all our BSIF members to ensure that PPE that is brought in to the UK performs properly.

Please follow the guidelines and stay safe.

PPE Certificates

Bogus and Suspicious Certificates for PPE for COVID 19

While the safety industry is working flat out to provide suitable and adequate legally compliant PPE where it is needed most, the market is absolutely awash with offers of product with extremely questionable provenance, supported by certification that is at best misleading.

With an incredible surge in demand and a dislocation of the traditional supply chains, suppliers and importers, previously not known to us, have appeared offering products, especially RPE and Medical Masks. The domestic supply chain, starved of these products has been understandably desperate to access product.

PPE is a highly regulated product category, for good reason, these are life sustaining products. For the sake of the health of workers we cannot afford sub - standard product that has not been properly assessed to be placed on the market.

I would say that over the last 3 weeks BSIF has been reacting to more than 40 requests per day for help in authenticating certificates. At times this has been almost overwhelming.

But who would be carrying out this vital service if not BSIF?

We have been supporting members who are keen to do the right thing and we are following up with non - members to ensure that only safe compliant products get through. We are working with the Trading Standards Authorities, BEIS and OPSS continually.

Below are just some of the examples of dubious certificates that are in the market, and while not accusing these companies directly, as there are forgeries around, I would draw your attention to the ECM certificate. This is a voluntary certificate allowing the use of the ECM mark, but carrying the CE logo which is actively misleading manufacturers and importers into believing that the certificate is a valid EU document. It is not. Please do not be misled. We have seen this type of scandalous practise in other institutions and have continuously called on the EU Commission for action. The Commission has now reacted and through ACCREDIA the Italian accreditation body ECM have been told to desist and warned about future behaviour.



The risks of product entering the market through businesses that do not know what they are doing has never been more obvious. It is imperative that users should look to a Registered Safety Supplier for quality products provided by capable knowledgeable staff.





In the last weeks we have all seen the media attention on the availability of face masks for workers in healthcare and social services. What the media has not seen and something which I want us all to appreciate is the work being done by the Fit2Fit accredited face fitters in the UK.

For a tight fitting mask to provide protection it needs to be adequate for the hazard and suitable for the individual. To ensure that it is suitable for the individual it must be fit tested for that person. Face Fitters around the country have been working 7 day weeks to try to cover as many people in healthcare as is humanly possible. This task is monumental and I would like to pay tribute and thank them all to a person, for this heroic effort.

Face Fitting can be up close and personal and in these difficult times, a task that carries with risk. The length and breadth of the UK the face fitting activity has gone on and on, just a fantastic effort!

Again we pay tribute to you all.

In some cases where there have been logistical limitations face fitters have created and delivered on

- line training with follow up personal telephone support. Training courses have been redesigned to fit available time with refocussing content to reinforce key messages on avoiding cross contamination.

The challenges in healthcare face fitting have been added to with some confusion of guidance on which mask is suitable for what application. Whether there are actually distinct differences in the advice given by Public Health England and the Health and Safety Executive or not, the task of the face fitting and reassuring wearers has been fraught.

The government cabinet office team's objective included a coordinated approach to prioritising face fitting around the UK from a central point. Advice was sought from Fit2Fit on harnessing resource and helping to point it at priority areas, this has not yet been put into action.

As well as dealing with mask supply problems we have had to support the authorities on shortages with components for face fitting kits. While our BSIF members have been doing all that they can to supply kits we have supported, through the Fit2Fit community, alternative manufacturing of fit test taste solution.

When we come out of this COVID 19 crisis it is crystal clear that a strategic approach to face fitting as well as the availability of PPE in Healthcare is absolutely essential for preserving the health of the UK workforces.

Fit2Fit and Face Fitting

Events

With the current situation there has been a lot of disruption to the Safety industries events calendar. The schedule has been changed and new dates arranged....the show must go on!

The Health & Safety Event NEC was originally planned for 28th, 29th & 30th of April, with this not being possible a new date has been chosen and the exhibition will now be 22nd and 23rd September.

The Safety and Health Excellence (SHE) and BSIF Awards which celebrate the fantastic work that occurs in the industry would have been hosting the awards evening on 29th April at the Vox, NEC, Birmingham. This has now been changed to the 22nd September at the same venue, this will coincide with the change of date for the H&S NEC event. Tickets for the awards evening are available now, please get in touch with us to secure yours.

ExpoProtection, Paris is scheduled for the 3rd, 4th and 5th of November. As it stands this event will go ahead, BSIF have managed to secure funding through the Department of International Trades TAP scheme. This means companies interested in exhibiting have the chance to apply for a grant that can help with the costs of having a stand at the show (T's & C's apply). BSIF will send out information on this to members in the coming months.

Intersec 2021, Dubai is planned for 24th, 25th and 26th of January 2021. BSIF will be arranging the UK pavilion for safety at the event. The TAP funding for the exhibiting has been confirmed for 2021 meaning companies will have the incentive of a grant available to help with the costs of exhibiting.

Membership Services Update

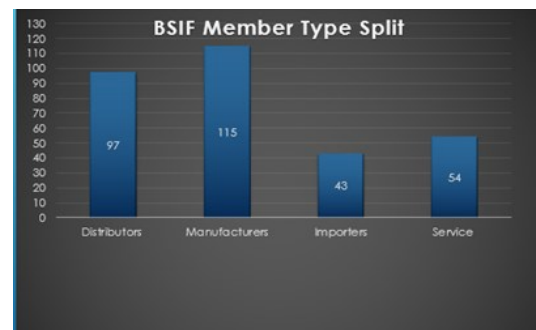
2019-20 has seen a sufficient rise in members and in engagement of those same members through the Registered safety Supplier Scheme Audit, with which I have helped the fantastic work done by our RSSS Manager Roy Wilders to raise numbers on the required annual RSSS Audits and invigilating on the Safety Supply Accreditation final written test, often doing both audit and invigilation in one visit.

Currently YTD March 2020 we have a total of 309 BSIF members rising by 52 since March 2019. With 16 new members coming in so far in 2020.

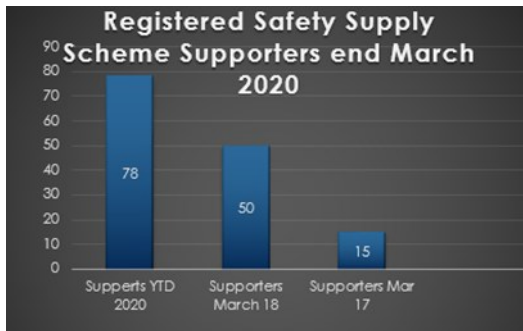
Manufacturers continue to be the dominant force in memberships but Distributors are gaining ground weekly, the importers are recorded as the lowest, but in truth this kind of ready reckoning is not an exact science with many members providing all three duties under one roof. Service providers are still registering good membership numbers and expected to grow more now the Registered Safety Supply Scheme has extended its scope to include those companies that provide services around PPE and the wider remit of Safety Equipment.

Of our 309 total 248 are now RSSS. Extra engagement through RSSS Audits and invigilation's of the Safety Supply Accreditation examinations have really pushed up valuable interaction. With some good Social Media that followed on from Audits to help that saturation online to great effect.

Some leavers were recorded in the early part of January, most of which were those members that did not engage with us in accordance with the new requirements of membership and as a consequence fell away.



Supporters of the Registered Safety Supply Scheme continues to grow steadily with a total Now of 78 recorded and featured in our Supporters portal of the RSSS website.



The 1st April sees the start of engagement more fully with supporters. We are starting a major new awareness campaign with Local Authorities across the length and breadth of the UK. To this end we will shortly be working on a Procurement aid document for Local Authorities alongside 'The Local Government Association' and expect this fusion document will make landfall with LA procurement departments over the coming weeks.

Other Local Authorities already talking to us and supporting are Hackney, Doncaster and Dudley. Watch this space as more will be engaged with over the coming months/years.

If any members can facilitate a direct contact in to their Local Authority HSEQ and or Procurement department please contact our Membership Services Manager paul.manning@bsif.co.uk – Remember a conversation on the merits of BSIF and RSSS will be well met at these levels and will only help reinforce your relationship thereafter.

Covid 19 has seen interaction with other Trades Association more so as we seek to join hands for swifter conclusion to our current Pandemic.

Prospect member meetings (122 YTD) are continuing unabated via Webex,

which has its challenges but allows some face to face interaction, invaluable when conducting member RSS Audits. Social Media has seen an upwards curve for my LinkedIn personal engagement with currently 6210 PPE/Safety Connections on LinkedIn and 232 Twitter followers. Which in turn has pushed a sizeable prospect listing of over 450 active contacts currently that could/should all join BSIF at some point, perhaps when they see the support that is now being ramped upward!

2019-20 saw us plough into no less than 9 Trade events to fly the BSIF flag to

great effect. All gathered in new members and or supporters, plus gave us high value conversations with a multitude of end users of PPE and Safety Equipment to raise their awareness of all things PPE/Safety equipment related. Despite the COVID 19 this period for us is one of full steam engagement and consolidation of members and supporters.

Many thanks to all members for your ongoing support into 2020 and beyond.

Best Regards, BSIF Membership Services Manager Paul Manning.

RSSS Update - Q1 2020

Following on from the work started in 2019 to audit all members of the BSIF Registered Safety Supplier Scheme (RSSS), 2020 so far has presented great opportunities to engage with the membership and to expand and develop the scheme to provide even more value.

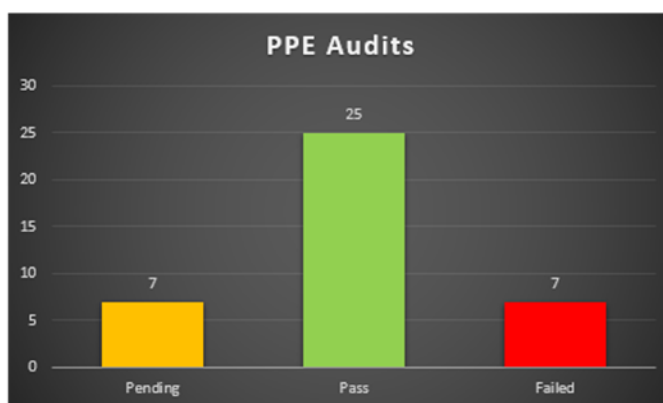
The 3 months from January to March saw our Membership Manager Paul Manning and I conduct a total of 36 audits of members obligations/responsibilities, as laid out in the RSSS handbook and covering aspects related to claims made about

products and or services to ensure that they meet these claims and the quality management systems that back this up.

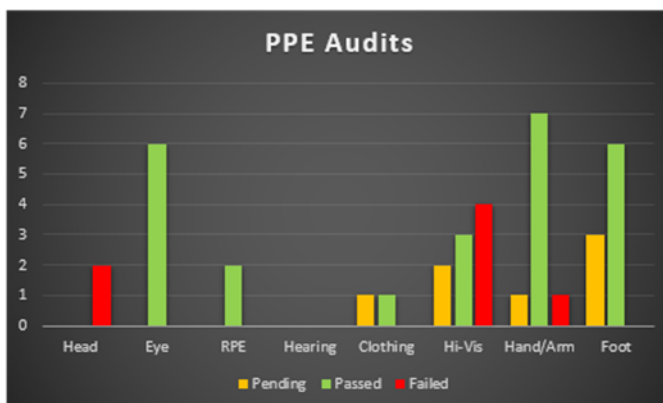
As part of this audit process, we received 39 PPE products to audit, by conducting an indicative test to one or more of the claims of conformity made for the product. From this 39, 32 product tests have been completed with 25 products passing the testing (performing in line with the claims made), 7 failed and 7 are still pending. It is worth noting that failure in this context could refer to paperwork issues that need to be addressed, rather than just a specific failure of performance.

Member PPE Product Audits			
No. Completed	Pending	Pass	Failed
32	7	25	7
39		32	

% Fail: 21.9%



PPE Type	Pending	Passed	Failed
Head			2
Eye		6	
RPE		2	
Hearing			
Clothing	1	1	
Hi-Vis	2	3	4
Hand/Arm	1	7	1
Foot	3	6	
Totals:	7	25	7



Registered Safety Supplier Scheme

Part of the RSSS is the obligation to ensure that customer-facing staff are educated in key aspects related to the UK safety marketplace, such as relevant legislation, product marking etc. The Safe Supply accreditation (SSA) is our own online, module based training and qualification process, which rewards successful completion of the course and final invigilated exam with a publicly recognised qualification.

During the 1st 3 months, we have signed up 41 new registrations to the SSA, invigilated 13 exams with every person taking the exam passing the exam successfully and achieving the BSIF/IQ level 2 award in Safe Supply.

The online presentation of the SSA scheme posted to our YouTube channel last November has had 82 views to date and is proving a great resource for those members who need to explain the process to their customer-facing staff.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=par4H80nelw>.

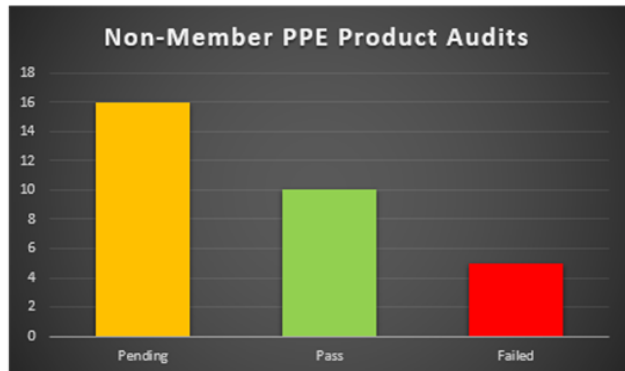
Registered Safety Supplier Scheme

As well as auditing members of the BSIF, the team conduct routine 'mystery shopping' activities to obtain PPE from non-member organisation s(including online sellers) and then test these products to 1 or 2 of the claims of conformance – the same as we do with our members.

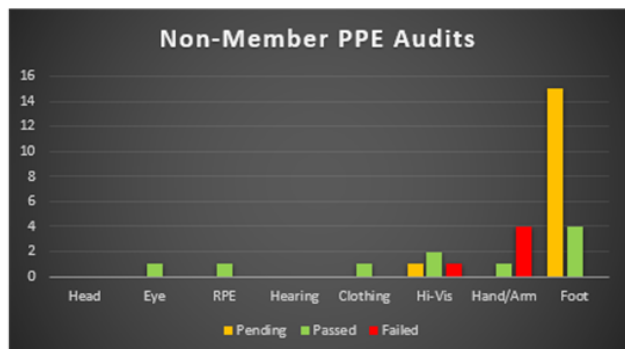
This year to date, we have obtained 31 items of PPE – including some provided by member organisations of the BSIF – for assessment. Of this 31, 10 products passed the physical testing, 16 are pending test results and 5 products failed. However, once the issue of incorrect/insufficient paperwork is factored in the failure rate is much higher with 20 products not having the correct paperwork available at point of purchase.

Non-Member PPE Product Audits			
No. Completed	Pending	Pass	Failed
15	16	10	5
31		15	

% Fail: 33.3%



PPE Type	Pending	Passed	Failed
Head		1	
Eye		1	
RPE		1	
Hearing		1	
Clothing		1	
Hi-Vis	1	2	1
Hand/Arm		1	4
Foot	15	4	
Totals:	16	10	5



The impact of the Covid19 (Coronavirus) pandemic in the UK, obviously affected how we needed to manage the audits following the large number of contacts and BSIF staff now working from home. With the use of WebEx online meeting tools, we have continued to be able to offer and conduct audits (including one very early morning meeting with a member based in Western Australia) with products then being sent on afterwards for relevant testing.

The volume of requests for guidance and support for our members has meant a lot of my time recently has been spent helping members assess product certification and provide some support in understanding the impact of EU commission legislation relating to certification of products to help protect those in the frontline healthcare arena.

Aside from this, an important task has been the assessment and expansion of our RSSS handbook and auditing processes to not only include, but also document how audits can be conducted for those members providing Safety services, such as calibration of, and/or servicing/maintenance of safety equipment. This is well underway and we hope to publish this early in Q2.

Roy Wilders
Manager – Registered Safety Supplier Scheme
T: 07494 677874



S.I.G. -nificant Newsy

A roundup of news from the BSIF Special Interest Groups

Most of our product group members have been wrestling with the twin challenges of trying to source product when supply chains lie in tatters, while at the same time attempting to respond to a national emergency which consumes unprecedented quantities of PPE every day.

At the same time our colleagues in Test & Certification have been fighting on multiple fronts. On the one hand there is the tsunami of uncertified, fake and potentially dangerous product which seems to grow as every day passes. At the same time PPE from essentially new sources needs to be assessed to ensure it meets the required levels of performance and safety criteria.

ISO and CEN have suspended all 'venue' meetings until further notice, and PH meetings have been cancelled. In some cases however, task groups and project groups within standard organisations are going ahead where members are able to use virtual communication facilities.

Test & Certification Association

The Test and Certification Association last met on March 12th. The minutes have been issued (T&C 20.008.1). The next meeting was tentatively set for June 30th / 31st. If circumstances allow it will be held at the offices of SGS at Oldbury. However, if, as is likely the current lock-down continues we will look at holding a virtual meeting via WebEx at that time.

Further information on this will be sent out to members nearer the time.

As mentioned, T&C member organisations have been involved in the fight against fake and fraudulent products, and in the call to assess sources of new product. These topics are dealt with elsewhere in this newsletter.

Safety Footwear SIG

We last met on February 26th and the next meeting was pencilled in for Sept 17th at SATRA. It would be nice to think that normality may have returned by September, but in reality, virtual meetings may still be the order of the day. More information will be mailed out as we get closer to the time. For the present I am given to understand that with the cancellation of CEN/ISO meetings there are no updates on standards development since our last meeting.

Respiratory Protective Equipment SIG

Sadly, our first meeting of 2020 which was planned for March 24th was one of the first to fall victim to Covid-19 restrictions. The previous meeting was held on December 10th. I am grateful to Mike Thomas who has supplied an update on standards development work since our last meeting and this will be mailed out to members in the next few days. We are looking at arranging a virtual meeting – details to be communicated to members in due course.

Eye, Face, Hearing and Head Protection SIG

The meeting scheduled for March 26th, which would have been the first since September 26th had to be cancelled. If any members have updates on standards development work or any other issue they wish to share, please email

hugo.watts@bsif.co.uk. Again, we will need to look at scheduling a virtual meeting sooner rather than later.

Protective Glove and Clothing SIG

Fortunately we were able to hold a meeting on February 27th, the minutes of which have been mailed to members (PG&C 20.009). A tentative date of June 23rd was set for the next meeting. If it does go ahead it is likely to be a virtual meeting. More information will be mailed out nearer the time.

CEN/TC162/WG3 did meet at the end of February. A synopsis of the minutes from that meeting will be prepared and will be mailed to members.